



## Meeting of the Surrey SACRE

Date: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Spring 2024

Time: 3.00-5.00pm

Venue – Meeting held by Zoom

This meeting was recorded as part of minute taking.

Quorum required (9 inc one from each group) – 13 (at 3.06pm)

Officers Present – 2 / Clerk / Members Present – 15 (by 3.14pm) + 1 new member observing

Present: x18 (Officers 2 / Clerk / Members 16)

### Officers: x2

**Sarah Harris** - Acting SACRE Chair & Vice Chair/Group A member (in person)

Liz Mitchell - Diocesan Administrator & Clerk to SACRE (in person)

**Carrie Trill** – Head of Education, Surrey County Council

(Jane WD – former Clerk to SACRE/ operating Zoom technology)

### Group A: x7

Sarah Harris – Acting SACRE Chair

Jennie Johnson – Chair Group A

Rosslyn Doney, Peter Ward,

Rev Allan Taylor (nominated Vice-Chair),

Sadia Irfan (new member),

Raju Pandya (joined at 3.06pm)

### Group B: x3

Jane Whittington (Chair Group B)

Shaun Burns, Sarah Hutton

### Group C: x5

Deborah Jackson,

Louisa Smith (new member observing),

Rashida Nasir (joined at 3.06pm),

Saadia Nawaz (joined at 3.14pm),

Saima Saleh (joined at 3.14pm)

### Group D: x1

Dennis Booth (new member)

Item No.	SACRE Business Meeting	Actions arising	
	Time convened: 3.00pm	By whom	By when
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions:</b> SHarris opened meeting &amp; welcomed members. Explained RB called away at short notice due to a family emergency. In RB's absence Jane WD authorised to manage Zoom technology. <i>RD joined meeting at 3.03pm/RN joined meeting at 3.06pm – meeting quorate</i> Members introduced themselves – SHarris, JJ, JWT, SI, PW, SB, DB, DJ, SH, AT, LM, LS, RD, CT, JWD, RN, RP.</p>		
2.	<p><b>Apologies for Absence:</b> Officer – Rachel Boxer Group A – Inderjeet Singh Rehncy Group C – Alex Page Group D - Robert Hughes</p> <p><b>Not in attendance (noted in minutes only)</b> Group A - Simon Mortimore; Patrick Jatumet Thueanmuenwai; Group D – Jordan Beech (Chair D); Buddi Weerasinghe</p>		
3.	<p><b>Acting Chair's Actions:</b> <b>SACRE Celebration Event</b> – SHarris reviewed. Well attended. Positive comments received: 'excellent event', 'something to celebrate', 'great to be together in person', 'wonderful opportunity to make good connections and been in communication since', 'fun idea to take food to do with faith'. Overall very successful. Thanks recorded to all involved. Proposal for Summer SACRE meeting to be held externally at Synagogue with lunch. SHutton agreed good thing to do. SI unable to make 3<sup>rd</sup> July date. <b>Action:</b> To review meeting date with RB to change to w/c 08.07.24. Any objections re Synagogue venue to let RB or Clerk know.</p>	RB/Chair SH	May 24
4.	<p><b>Minutes of SACRE meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (Paper 4):</b> Formally approved by show of hands in room/on zoom. PW proposed/RD seconded.</p>		
5.	<p><b>Matters Arising from meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023:</b> <b>Membership</b> - PW confirmed Emma Sharp has stepped down. Group A, B and D - see updates below.</p>		

	<p>Quoracy issues – RB to address.  Nominating bodies for Group A – tbc  <b>Baha'i concept map</b> - RB informed still no feedback from Simon Mortimore re draft Baha'i concept map. <b>Action:</b> To follow up for next meeting.  <b>Draft constitution</b> – discussed at 11.10.23 meeting. Now been adopted/approved by SCC.  <b>SACRE SDP</b> – agenda item in meeting  <b>SACRE Self-Evaluation</b> - agenda item in meeting  <b>SACRE Training</b> - agenda item in meeting  <b>Speakers Forum Resourcing/access to GDBE Elevate</b> - agenda item in meeting  <b>SACRE Contract</b> – update from CT in meeting  <b>Open House events</b> – agenda item in meeting</p>	RB	July
	<b>Minutes of SACRE meeting 13/03/24:</b>		
6.	<p><b>Membership Updates:</b>  SHarris ran through membership updates.  Nicola Morgan contract ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Carrie Traill now in attendance.  <b>Vacancies:</b> on Group A (Other faiths) &amp; Group D (LA) to approve in meeting.  Group A – Kawther stepped down, Sadia Irfan joining SACRE as replacement.  Group D (LA): NM/CT recruited new councillor – Dennis Booth in attendance 13.03.24.  SHarris asked for SACRE approval – no objections. SI &amp; DB formally approved as members.  <b>Action:</b> draft and send letter of thanks to Kawther for contribution to SACRE.</p> <p><b>Group C</b> (Teachers) replacement for GP (Academies) - RB arranged Louisa Smith to attend. LS to observe 13.03.24 in line with Constitution. LS raised her understanding was that she being voted on at this meeting. SHarris &amp; CT clarified constitution states as new member observes for one meeting before being voted on.  <b>Action:</b> to vote LS on at next meeting and confirm appointment of SI to Group A and DB to Group D.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> JWT raised vacancy in Group B for Diocese of London – being followed up.</p> <p><b>Chair and Vice-Chair of SACRE</b> - SHarris explained need to appoint.  Chair of SACRE: one nomination received to Clerk - SHarris nominated. Vote taken in meeting – see voting outcome.  Vice Chair: one nomination received to Clerk - Rev Allan Taylor nominated. Vote taken in meeting – see voting outcome.</p> <p><b>Ahmadiyya membership:</b> SHarris explained need discussion and vote on long-standing request for Ahmadiyya to have membership of group A – asked CT to explain.  CT outlined background and decision-making process in line with constitution. Have three options – accept membership request, reject membership request or co-opt.  Each SACRE Group need to discuss as a group in breakout rooms and come to majority decision on recommendation. CT will take recommendation back to SCC. Understand sensitivity around the discussion. SCC worked with legal team, community partnership team and the groups involved to understand thoughts and concerns. Decision taken constitution is in place and SCC would like to follow it requesting SACRE make a recommendation to SCC in accordance with the constitution. CT handed over to RN to outline request for membership and what she can bring moving from Group C to Group A as Ahmadiyya representative.  RN outlined rationale behind Ahmadiyya representation. RN has three years experience on SACRE, teacher background and member of Ahmadiyya community.  CT explained RN will not take part in group discussions due to conflict of interest. Handed back to SHarris – asked for any questions.  SI queried timing – thought had more time of waiting on making decision.  CT explained proposal not deemed agreeable by all parties and followed constitutional rules to process the application for membership.  SHarris explained going into Zoom breakout rooms by Group to make decision for that group, and reminded members that this has already been discussed at great length.  Recommendation will be passed onto SCC to make final decision.</p>	<p>RB/LM</p> <p>All</p> <p>JWT</p>	<p>July 24</p> <p>July 24</p> <p>July 24</p>

<p><b>Discussion and Voting Protocol:</b></p> <p>SHarris explained in breakout rooms 3 items to discuss and agree on by each Group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ahmadiyya membership</li> <li>2. SACRE Chair and Vice-Chair vote</li> <li>3. Chair for Group C</li> </ol> <p>JWD clarified Clerk will be in room with SHarris in Group A as , CT with JWD, RN in room on own and DB in room on own as only representative in Group D.</p> <p>SI raised if everyone comfortable with arguments for and against. SHarris and CT felt should be. CT invited opportunity to raise questions about either the situation or the process. JJ asked if everyone feels knows enough before go into groups. No member commented. SH felt would be helpful to understand distinct contribution and demographic stats. CT noted in last census 2.2% Surrey population identifies under Islam but can't break down branches further. Second largest group in Surrey after Christianity and have one rep on SACRE. Explained we have 2 branches of Islam in SACRE. A compromise agreement was tried to be put in place whereby Surrey Muslim Association could represent Ahmadiyya community on SACRE. RN sits on SACRE in group C and could acknowledge if views being represented but flaw is that Ahmadiyya community not permitted to join Surrey Muslim Association. Should they therefore have a member in their own right which is what SACRE need to decide on. RN endorsed what CT explained.</p> <p>SHarris asked to clarify that Ahmadiyya rep will be listed separately to Surrey Muslim Association which CT confirmed would be if successful. SI hoped that Surrey Muslim Association could represent Ahmadiyya rather than have more numbers on SACRE.</p> <p>SHarris explained SACREs have a wide range of faiths/belief systems and have to be open to all requests.</p> <p>CT formally acknowledged Sadia's genuineness for cooperative approach. Reiterated 1 vote per group to vote approve, not approve or co-opt.</p> <p>JJ asked for clarification if group vote not unanimous. SHarris confirmed to come back with majority vote.</p> <p><i>Breakout groups started at 3.35pm for 10 minutes.</i></p> <p><i>Groups came back into main meeting at 3.45pm.</i></p> <p><b><u>Voting Outcome:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>SHarris asked Chair of each group to give majority vote decision on Ahmadiyya rep:</u></b></p> <p><b>Group A</b> (Other faiths): JJ (Chair A) - majority 'approve'.</p> <p><b>Group B</b> (CoFE) : JWT (Chair B) - unanimous 'approve'. Gave explanation of decision making as the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a significant local presence and the global centre of this denomination</p> <p><b>Group C</b> (Teachers): SN spoke on behalf of group. Voted 'Cooperate', to work together with Surrey Muslim Association. CT asked for clarification – either 'not approve' or 'Co-Option' that not a full voting member. SN checked with group C – majority vote 'approve' not co-opt.</p> <p><b>Group D</b> (LA): DB voted to 'Co-opt'.</p> <p>CT clarified result - vote taken 3 groups to 1 group is yes 'approve' to admit Ahmadiyya community to full membership into SACRE Group A.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> CT to feed back to SCC and portfolio holder who will have a discussion to make final decision. Will notify SACRE and Ahmadiyya community in due course.</p> <p>SHarris formally acknowledged Carrie and Nicola's work on this.</p> <p><b><u>SACRE Chair and Vice-Chair vote</u></b></p> <p>Sarah Harris nominated as Chair. PW &amp; JJ proposed. RD seconded – no objections. Sarah Harris formally voted in by SACRE as SACRE Chair.</p> <p>Rev Allan Taylor nominated as Vice-Chair. JWT proposed. PW seconded – no objections. Rev Allan Taylor formally voted in by SACRE as SACRE Vice-Chair.</p>	<p>CT</p>	<p>July 24</p>
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7.	<p><b>Presentation and ratification of Annual Report 2022-23: Paper 7</b></p> <p>RB to have presented to SACRE, but was included in papers for the meeting. Chair SH asked for any comments. No comments received – Annual Report approved as read. To send to NASACRE, DfE, and for members to send to their nominating bodies, including SCC. Report will be uploaded to SACRE webpage and link sent to all schools via the SCC bulletin.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Annual report 2022-23 agreed by SACRE to send to NASACRE &amp; DfE. RB to follow up any outstanding items at next meeting.</p>	RB/Clerk	July 24
8.	<p><b>SACRE Development Plan: Paper 8</b></p> <p>Chair SH asked SACRE for any comments on Paper 8.</p> <p>JWT outlined lot of green but need to look at areas highlighted in yellow. Need help to support teachers in delivery of agreed RE syllabus in schools. Look at opportunities for funding support and training for Speakers’ Forum to work with schools. RB would like to arrange visits to local places of worship for class teachers as well as RE leads in regard to subject knowledge. Chair SH agreed valuable resource.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> contact RB if can offer places to visit.</p> <p>LS – database available to access places to visit which accredited.</p> <p>SS - highlighted RE hubs.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> LS to share details of database.</p> <p>SB asked for update on contract renewal. CT gave update – at an advanced stage on discussions with Diocese of Guildford. Need new 2 year contract in place for August 2024 which on track for a smooth transition to carry forward with Diocese of Guildford.</p> <p>SB asked if DoG is the preferred partner or other companies involved. CT explained meet the rules for ‘direct award’ with Diocese of Guildford due to value and preferred partner for continuity. Anticipating by July meeting CT can give final answer as last meeting before contract runs out!</p> <p><b>Action:</b> update on SCC contract decision at July SACRE meeting.</p> <p>Chair asked for volunteers for a SDP sub-committee to work on looking at priorities etc. JWT, Rev AT and PW offered.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> set up SACRE SDP sub-committee meeting. Clerk to send out details.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>LS</p> <p>CT</p> <p>SH</p>	<p>July 24</p> <p>July 24</p> <p>July 24</p> <p>July 24</p>
9.	<p><b>SACRE Self-Evaluation Tool</b></p> <p>Chair SH explained self-evaluation is something SACRE doesn’t do at the moment but good practice to review how we work and what we do well. RB asked SACRE to look at section 3. Chair SH asked to go back in break out rooms to discuss section 3 of self-evaluation tool.</p> <p><i>4.10pm Groups sent into breakout rooms for 15 mins.</i></p> <p><i>4.25pm Groups came back into main meeting.</i></p> <p>Chair SH asked for feedback from Groups with ref to Section 3 how our SACRE compares to levels. <b>Action:</b> send notes by Group to RB of discussions re Section 3.</p> <p>SACRE agreed valuable tool as national benchmark of good practice for SACRE to evaluate ourselves locally against nationally. Promotes good discussion for areas of development going forward. Good accessible language and written well. Needs more dedicated time to look at.</p> <p>Chair SH - RB using as a test and suggests set up a sub-committee to look at in more depth. Asked for comment.</p> <p>JWT – useful framework to work through and as a SACRE come out quite well. To evaluate impact is challenging with size of Surrey re time and personnel to talk to the pupils.</p> <p>JJ – suggested monitoring partnerships which were very useful pre-pandemic.</p> <p>PW – value to get Diocesan evaluations of how shared syllabus is working across CofE and LA schools. Also question of commitment of teachers in non CofE schools.</p> <p>JWT - explained Diocese does gather feedback which can share with SACRE as starting point but caveat that CofE schools put more emphasis on RE. Greater status and investment in CofE schools as inspected on it so may be positively skewed view.</p> <p>Chair SH – RB suggested to set up sub-committee to work on looking at self-evaluation. Asked for thoughts to go forward with.</p> <p>SB – suggested value having as agenda item at meetings and taking a section at each meeting to discuss in groups. Share feedback back in full meeting for RB to collate to build document Surrey SACRE have all contributed to.</p>	ALL	July 24

	JJ – important part of SACRE role to look at particularly re syllabus. Chair SH – 5 sections inc syllabus, management, funding. Can take one section at a time. <b>Action:</b> SH to suggest plan to RB for making Evaluation tool an agenda item at meetings.	SH	July 24
10.	<b>Introducing GDBE Elevate</b> <b>Action:</b> In RB's absence move item to next meeting	RB	July 24
11.	<b>SACRE Training</b> Chair highlighted Induction and Interfaith training dates for SACRE members to take note – very valuable to do. 'Encounters with Faith and Belief' Interfaith training: date subsequently confirmed by email as 24.4.24 11am-1pm.		
12.	<b>Local updates: Paper 12.1 &amp; 12.2</b> <b>SACRE Advice:</b> Chair SH discussed advice requested for teachers teaching Covenant of Abraham with ref to Israel. RB got in touch with Sarah and Kawther. Southwark sent out useful guidance on teaching about the Middle Eastern difficult issues which well received. SB involved in drafting – helped signpost other resources available. Advice to teach to the syllabus rather than taking things out. Look at in balanced supportive way. Discussion by SACRE about issues schools experiencing around Islamophobia and racism. Ideas and words coming from somewhere such as the media. More knowledge teachers have the better to manage the issues. CT outlined LA work to support the LA agreed syllabus, Surrey Healthy Schools – looking at PSHE approach to tolerance, holistic education. Work with the police and community safety group and parish councils to address anything flagged up.  <b>RE Hubs</b> – Saima outlined RE Hubs. Works with Justine Ball South-Eastern hub leader. Opportunity to network and bring together RE community. Recommended RE Hubs website – useful resources available e.g. top news items, accredited faith speakers, faith visits. Growing in strength as a website.  <b>Open House</b> - suggest SACRE places of worship for teachers/school visits e.g. Guildford Cathedral, local parish churches, free church, Orthodox church in Gomshall, Woking Methodist Church. SS – visits brilliant but problem of cost of transport is a barrier to schools so not prioritised. Is there scope for virtual 360 tours for teachers. SH – suggestion to visit several places and do as cross curricular to make more cost effective. Also come across funding from individuals and businesses who can sponsor initiatives. RN – Rushmoor BC provide minibus transport which is cheaper. CT – community group applied and set up a 'Faith Tour'. Took teachers and pupils – local SACRE supported it with the cost. Good models available to look at how can support and access resources. SB – Lambeth and Wandsworth developed Faith Trails. Can share information. <b>Action:</b> share initiatives and ideas to develop resources for visits in person and virtually	ALL	July 24
13.	<b>National Updates:</b> <b>NASACRE National Conference &amp; AGM</b> – 20 <sup>th</sup> May in York. <b>Action:</b> Clerk to check/circulate details to SACRE members and make booking. <b>Action:</b> <b>Ofsted Annual Report and REC National Content Standard: paper 13</b> – to carry forward to the next meeting. <b>AOB</b> – PW formally thanked SH for 'holding the fort' in RB's absence and to JWD for running the Zoom technology.	LM RB	May 24 July 24
14.	<b>Date of next meeting:</b> Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 3-5pm; possible venue of North West Surrey Synagogue as an in-person meeting only, not hybrid.	SH/RB	July 24

**The meeting closed at 5.00pm**

Signature:<sup>ii</sup> \_\_ Approved by Surrey SACRE Committee / *S.Harris*(Chair) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_06.11.2024\_\_\_\_\_

Minutes to be circulated to:<sup>iii</sup> SACRE Committee, Local Authority SACRE Officers, Diocese and being also published in the public domain via cofeguildford.org.uk

### Summary of actions<sup>iv</sup> 13/03/2024

Item	Action on	By whom	By when
1.	<b>Membership:</b> <b>Action:</b> draft and send letter of thanks to Kawther for contribution to SACRE <b>Action:</b> to vote LS on at next meeting and confirm appointment of SI to Group A and DB to Group D. <b>Action:</b> JWT raised vacancy in Group B for Diocese of London – being followed up. <b>Action:</b> CT to feed back to SCC and portfolio holder who will have a discussion to make final decision. To notify SACRE and Ahmadiyya community in due course.	RB/LM All JWT CT	July 24 July 24 July 24 July 24
2.	<b>Baha'i concept map</b> – draft to be commented on and ready to present to full SACRE meeting for approval.	RB	July 24
3.	<b>Action:</b> Annual report 2022-23 agreed by SACRE to send to NASACRE & DfE. RB to follow up any outstanding items at next meeting.	RB/Clerk	July 24
4.	<b>SACRE SDP:</b> <b>Action:</b> contact RB if can offer places to visit <b>Action:</b> LS to share details of database of accredited places of worship and accreditation training <b>Action:</b> update on SCC contract decision at July meeting <b>Action:</b> set up SACRE SDP sub-committee meeting. Clerk to send out details	ALL LS CT SH	July 24 July 24 July 24 July 24
5.	<b>SACRE Self-Evaluation Tool:</b> <b>Action:</b> send notes by SACRE Group to RB of discussions re Section 3 <b>Action:</b> SH to suggest plan to RB for making Evaluation tool an agenda item at meetings	ALL SH	July 24 July 24
6.	<b>Introducing GDBE Elevate</b> <b>Action:</b> In RB's absence move item to next meeting	RB	July 24
7.	<b>Open House Event</b> <b>Action:</b> share initiatives and ideas to develop resources for visits in person and virtually	ALL	July 24
8.	<b>NASACRE National Conference – 20<sup>th</sup> May in York.</b> <b>Action:</b> Clerk to check/circulate details to SACRE members and make booking	LM	May 24
9.	<b>Action:</b> Ofsted Annual Report and REC National Content Standard: paper 13 – to carry forward to the next meeting.	RB	July 24
13.	<b>Online Meeting Platform</b> - review use of Teams or Zoom platform for future meetings.	Clerk	July 24