

Luton SACRE
Tuesday 11 June 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Luton Sixth Form College
Bradgers Hill Road, LU2 7EW

Present	
Farzad Forghani (FF)	Co-opted Representative - Bahá'í
Ryad Khodabocus (RK)	Co-opted Representative - Luton Council of Faiths
Paul Wagstaff (PW)	Director of Education – Luton Council
Lawrence Patterson (LP)	Group A: Free Churches Representative – Vice Chair
Muhammad Rayhan (MR)	Group A: Luton Council of Mosques representative
Ryan Parker (RP)	Group B: Church of England Representative
John Williams (JW)	Group C: Chair (N.A.H.T)
Cllr Mahmood Hussain (Cllr H)	Group D: Elected Member Representative
Caroline Dawes (CD)	Head of Standards and Effectiveness in Education – Luton Council
Sujel Miah (SM)	Luton Council of Mosques Representative
Elif Ucar (EU)	Luton Sixth Form College
Kay Kokabi (KK)	Luton Sixth Form College
Teresa Moss (TM)	Note Taker – Luton Council
Clare Hodgson (CH)	Teaching and Learning Consultant – Luton Council
Apologies	
Rehana Faisal	Group A: Luton Council of Mosques Representative
Jasvinder Singh Nagra	Group A: Sikh Representative
Peter Farquar	Group B: Church of England Representative
Noshin Hussain	Group C - Chantry Primary School
Tazeen Rashid	Group C: NEU Representative – Stockwood Park Academy

Actions from the Meeting	Who	Completion status
A card and flowers to be sent to Jasvinder Nagra on behalf of Luton SACRE members	EU/KK	
Budget Update KK and EU to send the draft development plan, with costings, to the chair to share with members by 14 June. PW to receive the development plan before 1 July 2024.	EU/KK	
Syllabus Consultation and Feedback JW to provide an introduction. Document to be formatted including page numbers. Update the agreed syllabus to include KS4, highlighting the statutory requirement minimum hours that schools must provide to pupils. Amend 'African Churches to read 'Pentecostal'. Circulate the final agreed syllabus to members by 14 June 2024.	JW EU/KK EU/KK EU/KK	

<p>1.</p>	<p>Welcome and Apologies (JW)</p> <p>Apologies were received as above. EU shared the sad news that Jasvinder Singh Nagra’s wife had recently passed away. It was agreed to send a card and flowers on behalf of SACRE members, with the cost coming from the budget (invoice to be sent to CD to action). Action: A card and flowers to be sent by Chair to Jasvinder Nagra on behalf of Luton SACRE members</p> <p>JW welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. It was confirmed that Lawrence Paterson was Vice Chair.</p> <p>There were some celebrations to share including the Bahá’í Race Unity Day, which was a worldwide event promoting integration, cohesion and harmony.</p> <p>The month of Hajj has started and will be observed on 16 and 17 June across the town.</p> <p>Luton Council of Faiths was recognised at the recent NASACRE conference for its high-quality work linked with faith and climate change.</p> <p>Pentecost, which is a significant date for Christians was celebrated on 19 May.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising (JW)</p> <p><u>Matters Arising – Budget Update</u> PW stated that the SACRE budget allocation paper will be presented to Schools Forum at its July meeting. The carry forward of approximately £10K from last financial year and the budget allocation for the current year must be approved as SACRE funding comes from the ‘Direct Schools Grant’ KK and EU confirmed that they were developing an action plan which included commissioning costs and should also include NASACRE membership. The draft document will be shared with members this week so there is sufficient time for members to provide feedback before the draft plan is presented to Schools Forum. The development plan will then be formally ratified at the next SACRE meeting. Action: KK and EU to send the draft development plan, with costing, to the chair to share with to members by 14 June. PW to receive the development plan before 1 July 2024.</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting held on 13 March were approved by Cllr Hussain and Lawrence Paterson.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Syllabus Consultation and Feedback (JW)</p> <p>JW reported that following a rigorous consultation period the agreed syllabus was ready to be approved.</p> <p>KK explained that the statutory guidance document for schools had been amended to take account of members’ comments. He shared the redesigned document, which included pictures, poems and paintings. There is now a bibliography, acknowledgement pages and a section on local contacts for teachers, including Luton Council of Faiths, as well as ideas for local trips with free places to visit. The document needs some final layout changes and proof read to check spelling and formatting. Members were asked to check for any missing</p>

contributors on the acknowledgement pages. **JW** to provide an introduction also. **KK** reported that the supplementary materials were still draft as these are non-statutory. He asked for support from members to finalise the materials. It was confirmed that permission had been obtained to include children's images in the document. It was suggested that an image of St Mary's Church been include on page 27. Every page should be numbered.

Action: JW to provide an introduction. Document to be formatted including page numbers.

CD noted that KS4 information was missing from the guidance and highlighted that it is a statutory requirement for pupils in Years 10 and 11 to receive RE lessons if they are not taking an RE GCSE. The national curriculum guidance states that schools have to teach RE, but parents can withdraw their children for all or part of the lessons. Pupils can choose to withdraw themselves once they're 18. **CD** will share the link to the national curriculum guidance document. **KK** responded by stating that this information needs to be clearly communicated to schools. The National Association for Teachers of RE are stipulating the number of hours that need to be 'taught' for pupils to achieve the outcomes, not the government. It was suggested that the following be included the guidance document: 'It is compulsory for schools to provide RE at KS4 and Luton SACRE are recommending that pupils in KS4 receive at least 30 hours RE a year and KS5 receive at least 10 hours RE a year.

Action: To update the agreed syllabus to include KS4, highlighting the minimum hours that schools must provide to pupils.

FF commented that this was an excellent document, but highlighted his belief that the Bahá'í faith should be included in the agreed syllabus. There followed a lengthy discussion between members. **MR** commented that there were lots of smaller faiths represented within Luton and it would be difficult to include them all. **JW** confirmed that the 6 major world faiths which must be taught are included in the agreed syllabus. **KK** stated that 'other religions' will be included in the supplementary materials. **PW** stated lots of different religions are mentioned in paragraph 2 of the 'how to use this syllabus' section and **Cllr MH** stated this should be sufficient. It was noted that African Churches should read 'Pentecostal'. **SM** suggested that Luton Council of Faiths is a good point of contact for advice, guidance and speakers willing to visit schools. **KK** confirmed that there is an agreement that we are signposting to Luton Council of Faiths.

Action: Amend 'African Churches to read 'Pentecostal'

JW thanked both EU and KK for all the work they had done on producing an excellent resource, which will be available 'online'. He tabled the motion to formally agree the proposed syllabus. Each group represented on SACRE had 1 vote as follows:

Group A – Agreed

Group B – Agreed (with the proviso that SACRE have sight of the draft non statutory guidance)

Group C – Agreed

Group D – Agreed.

Therefore, acting as an Agreed Syllabus Conference, SACRE members voted in their Groups to agree this syllabus.

KK confirmed that the final document will be circulated to members by the end of the week.

Action: KK to circulate the final agreed syllabus to members by 14 June 2024

	<p>SM said that Luton can be rightly proud at what has been achieved in raising the profile of RE and will be seen as an exemplar model with national recognition. PW reiterated that this was a unique syllabus, co-created by pupils and the whole community which showed how unified the town was.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Role of SACRE and Draft Revised Constitution – Presentation and Discussion (PW)</p> <p>The draft revised constitution will be discussed in further depth at the next meeting, but PW explained that the constitution has been updated to reflect national guidance and is in place to protect SACRE. There needs to be a mechanism in place for dealing with members who do not attend and how they are then replaced. The role of the chair and clerk also needs to be formalised. There needs to be greater clarity regarding timelines, with meetings set in advance etc. The constitution also reflects the unique make up of Luton. Cllr MH explained that SACRE is a statutory board and it can be difficult to get groups to join. It should be the responsibility of the clerk to follow up non-attendance etc. SM reiterated that we are all working to benefit the children of Luton and that the constitution should not impact the work of SACRE which works best when members can give independent advice. Local authority officers attend SACRE to facilitate the group to make informed decisions. PW asked members to provide feedback on the draft constitution by September, in readiness to be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>EU thanked Clare Hodgson for her support and advice and KK thanked members for their continuing support</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>AOB (JW)</p> <p>There were no matters of AOB</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>September 2024 – Date to be agreed</p>