

Luton SACRE
Thursday 10 October 4.00pm – 6.00pm
Hillborough Junior School
Hillborough Road, Luton LU1 5EZ

Present	
Paul Wagstaff	Luton Council - Director of Education
Lawrence Patterson	Group A: Free Churches Representative – Vice Chair
Muhammad Rayhan	Group A: Luton Council of Mosques representative
Paul Quinton	Group A: Pentecostal Representative
Jasvinder Singh Nagra	Group A: Sikh Representative
Luke Larner	Group B: Church of England Representative
Peter Farquar	Group B: Church of England Representative
Ryan Parker	Group B: Church of England Representative
John Williams	Group C: Chair (N.A.H.T)
Cllr Gillian Fry	Group D: Elected Member Representative
Cllr Mahmood Hussain	Group D: Elected Member Representative
Caroline Dawes	Luton Council - Head of Standards and Effectiveness in Education
Elif Ucar	Luton Sixth Form College
Kay Kokabi	Luton Sixth Form College
Farzad Forghani	Co-opted Representative - Bahá'i
Teresa Moss	Note Taker – Luton Council
Clare Hodgson	Teaching and Learning Consultant – Luton Council
Apologies	
Masood Akhter	Group A: Luton Council of Mosques Representative
Rehana Faisal	Group A: Luton Council of Mosques Representative
Tazeen Rashid	Group C: NEU Representative
Cllr Maria Lovell	Group D: Elected Member Representative
Sujel Miah (SM)	Luton Council of Mosques Representative

Actions from the Meeting	Who	Completion status
To include SACRE endorsed items in the Education Service Newsletter for schools	CD	
LL to share details of the urban garden and farm at St Andrews with KK.	LL	
The amended constitution will be reviewed at the next meeting	All	

1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies (JW) Apologies were received as above.</p> <p>The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. He shared that Sujel Miah had written a book called 'dinner with my daughters' about family values and recommended this to members. Information on where to purchase the book will be shared with all those interested.</p>
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<p>2.</p>	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising All actions from the previous meeting have been completed.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising – Syllabus Consultation and Feedback (Page 3)</u> The minutes to be amended to read: Group B – Agreed. The SACRE to have the opportunity to vote on the non-statutory guidance for Yr 2 onwards before wider circulation. – the link to the resources being developed by teachers is here: Luton SACRE Curriculum Resources. All members welcome to look at non-statutory materials</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting held on 11 July 2024 were approved by Cllr Hussain and Ryan Parker.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Budget Update / Development Plan Development Plan The development plan and a report from the Khayaal Theatre Group were circulated to members so they could be considered in line with the proposed budget.</p> <p>Khayaal have visited 14 schools, who had found the performances inspiring. Funding for this project had been secured from near neighbours as SACRE had not responded to Khayaal's request for financial support. There are a further 10 schools who have requested a visit and Khayaal are seeking £3K to continue the project.</p> <p>It was pleasing to note the excellent feedback from the schools that had taken part and members agreed that in the current climate the LA have a responsibility to bring schools together. It was reiterated that the SACRE needs to be clear, for auditing purposes, what the requested funding will cover to ensure transparency. Members stated that the priority should be continuing the funding for the Luton Council of Faiths support for schools. Khayaal are not seeking funding this financial year but this may need to be included in the budget for 2025-26. SACRE endorsed projects and activities can be signposted to schools via the Education Service Newsletter.</p> <p>Action: To include SACRE endorsed items in the Education Service Newsletter for schools</p> <p>There may be other local organisations who can support a broader curriculum, in line with the five key areas of God and Faith, Humanity, Nature, Science and Technology and Society. Schools are responsible for finding their own resources, but SACRE can make recommendations. There are signposts to RE resources on the Luton SACRE webpage.</p> <p>There is an urban garden and farming initiative taking place at St Andrews which may support the nature theme.</p> <p>Action: LL to share the details with KK.</p> <p>Budget The Schools Forum have approved the carry forward amount of £10K which has brought the total income for this financial year to £25.1K. £18.1K has been allocated to support the implementation of the new syllabus, including development costs, consultant fees for the RE network meetings with a contribution to schools who attend these for supply cover etc. (maximum 43 maintained schools). The cost of the conference referenced in the development plan will be funded from next year's budget. £3K has been allocated to the Luton Council of Faiths to support school initiatives etc. Funding for a clerk, who will be the</p>

	<p>point of contact for SACRE, attend meetings and ensure compliance with statutory duties, has also been included.</p> <p>As this is a transition year, a full breakdown of expenditure will be reported at the next meeting in March 2025. SACRE will be fully consulted on the budget for 2025-26 which is likely to be £15K. Schools Forum agree SACRE funding which comes from the dedicated schools grant (DSG). It was noted that NASACRE recommend funding should equate to 2% of Central School Services Block of DSG, Luton currently funds at 0.9%, national average is 0.62%. Any request for an increase in funding will need to be submitted to Schools Forum by January 2025.</p> <p>Identified training needs will be funded in the next financial year. Members suggested that local organisations could also be used as a resource as they have the skills and knowledge of the town.</p> <p>The budget was approved unanimously.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Revised Constitution – Presentation and Discussion</p> <p>The structure of the constitution has been reviewed and refined in conjunction with NASCRE advice and the Local Authority’s solicitors to ensure it complies with statutory regulations. The four representative groups have been reviewed to ensure that the membership is relevant and reflects the diverse make up of Luton.</p> <p>Point 6 states that the Chair and Vice Chair are nominated by the local authority and members agreed that nominations for these posts should come from SACRE members. There was a discussion on the term of office for members and it was agreed this remain as 4 years.</p> <p>A member queried why group D now included 7 council representatives, when previously one member from each political party was represented. This will be followed up, but the understanding is that this is decided at the Council AGM and reflects the political makeup of the Council. Members were reminded that each group only has one vote regardless of the number of representatives.</p> <p>Members were reminded that they must be nominated by, and represent, the view of their organisation. A request had been received from an individual to be an additional Sikh representative on SACRE. It was noted that the Luton SACRE already has a senior member of the Guru Nanak Gurdwara. Any additional representatives should be agreed by the Gurdwara before request to SACRE. He also asked that reference to ‘Sikhism’ be removed from the constitution and ‘Sikhi’ used in all documents. The Luton Council of Faiths were previously co-opted onto Luton SACRE and will now be represented in Group A. Majority Black Churches will be referred to as Pentecostal.</p> <p>Members asked that the Professional Adviser to the Luton Sacre, referenced in point 7 of the constitution be appointed by SACRE rather than the local authority. It was agreed to review the constitution and changed all references to ‘LA nominations/appoints’ to read ‘SACRE nominates/appoints and the local authority ratifies’.</p> <p>The members code of conduct referenced in point 16, should be linked to point 5.2 - removal of a member of SACRE. It was requested that draft minutes be circulated within 2 weeks of a</p>

	<p>meeting taking place (section 11). It was noted that correspondence to schools should only include letters of congratulations. It is not the responsibility of SACRE to write to schools if there are concerns regarding the quality of RE taught in schools. SACRE can commission an adviser to undertake review of RE/schools website but should report any concerns to the local authority.</p> <p>Members asked that acronyms be written in full. A couple of spelling mistakes were highlighted and these will be rectified.</p> <p>Members agreed to unanimously adopt the constitution, subject to the agreed changes being made.</p> <p>Action: The amended document will be reviewed at the next meeting.</p> <p>The chair announced that he would be stepping down after 15 years, and the meeting in March would be his last. Members expressed their thanks to the chair for all his work in moving Luton SACRE forward. Nominations for a chair will be invited at the next meeting.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Feedback on Teacher Workshops on the Agreed Syllabus</p> <p>Clare Hodgson gave a brief overview of the RE network meetings that had taken place in July and October. 27 schools had attended and of those 20 were maintained schools and 7 were academies. The evaluations from the day were very encouraging with the new syllabus receiving a rating of 8.15 out of 10 and the supplementary materials receiving 8.85. The local authority are keen for more schools to attend and dates of upcoming meetings have been shared via the Education Service newsletter along with a link to the supplementary materials on the shared google drive. Inset days have been delivered and schools are reporting that pupil engagement with the new materials is encouraging. More work is needed on ‘world views’.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Advice to Luton Schools – Wearing of the Kirpan</p> <p>It was agreed that this agenda item be deferred until the next meeting. This is a very important issue and the local authority will consult with the Sikhi representative on the draft advice.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>No determinations had been received from schools.</p> <p>Links to NASCRE training will be shared with members.</p> <p>The locally agreed syllabus was formally adopted by the Executive Committee of Luton Council on 9 September 2024 to be taught in Luton schools.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 18 March 2025, 4.00pm to 5.30pm at St Andrew Church, Blenheim Crescent, Luton Wednesday 21 May 2025, 4.00pm – 5.30pm (venue to be confirmed)</p>