

# **WEST BERKSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2021 VENUE: MEETING HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

### **Present:**

#### **Group A – Other Faiths Members**

Mobasshir Mushtaq (Muslim), Rabbi Zvi Solomons (Jewish) and Revd David Taylor (Thatcham Baptist Church)

#### **Group B – Church of England Members**

Val Bolan (Church of England), Maria Pratico (Church of England), Robin Sharples (Church of England) and Mary Stagg (Church of England)

#### **Group C – Teaching Association Members**

Amanda Bedding (NEU), Clare Hawkins (NASUWT) and Chris Ward (NEU)

#### **Group D – WBC Councillors**

Councillor Lynne Doherty (Leader of the Council), Councillor Billy Drummond (Ward: Newbury Greenham), Councillor David Marsh (Ward: Newbury Wash Common)

**Professional Consultant:** David Rees

**Guests:** Revd Julie Howell, Dilip Ladwa, Roseanna Looker

**Also Present:** Janet Giddings, Clerk

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting:** Councillor Tony Linden (Ward: Tilehurst Birch Copse)

### **1 Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Tony Linden who was attending a meeting at Theale Fire Station and from Pamela Voss, Equality & Diversity Officer, West Berkshire Council.

### **2 Membership - Janet Giddings, Clerk**

The Chair, Revd David Taylor, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the preferred venue was Newbury Mosque but due to current Covid-19 restrictions the meeting would be held online. He introduced Rose Carberry, Acting Principal Adviser for School Improvement. Rose Carberry took over from Donna Fox and is a former Headteacher.

A discussion took place about Membership of SACRE. David Taylor invited Dilip Ladwa and Roseanna Looker, currently attending as guests, to consider joining SACRE as Members.

There remains a vacancy for a LA Adviser, discussed at the last meeting following the resignation of Rachel Manley, Headteacher, Yattendon CE Primary School. Robin Sharples stressed the importance of the role within SACRE. Involvement was welcomed by Amanda Bedding with regard to changes to the syllabus in the next year, assessments and Ofsted. Clare Hawkins suggested approaching a non-faith Head, leading in RE and Collective Worship. David Taylor was keen to build on the close

## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 2 NOVEMBER 2021 - MINUTES

relationship SACRE has with primary and secondary schools through the Network Meetings established by David Rees.

**Action:** David Taylor asked Rose Carberry if she could approach a non-faith Primary Headteacher about joining SACRE. He offered to send details of SACRE's remit.

### 3 **Election of Chair & Vice Chair for Academic Year 2021/22 - Janet Giddings, Clerk**

The Clerk, Janet Giddings, invited nominations from Members to stand as Chair of West Berkshire SACRE. Val Bolan nominated David Taylor, seconded by Mobasshir Mushtaq. All Members indicated their approval with a show of hands. David Taylor was appointed Chair of West Berkshire SACRE.

The Clerk, Janet Giddings, invited nominations from Members to stand as Vice Chair of West Berkshire SACRE. Val Bolan nominated Clare Hawkins, seconded by Chris Ward and Cllr Billy Drummond. All Members indicated their approval with a show of hands. Clare Hawkins was appointed Vice Chair of West Berkshire SACRE.

### 4 **Minutes - David Taylor, Chair**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 5 **Actions (not covered elsewhere)**

5.1 Updated SACRE Overview

Action: David Taylor to share with SACRE Members via email

### 6 **Annual Report - David Taylor, Chair and David Rees, Professional Consultant**

David Rees presented the Draft Annual SACRE Report 2020-21. He explained that NASACRE had issued an Annual Report template to ensure standards were met. The report would not be submitted until December so Members would have the opportunity to comment.

**Action:** David Taylor to share the Draft Annual SACRE Report 2020-21 with Members.

### 7 **Schools**

7.1 West Berks RE Exam Results – Janet Giddings, Clerk

Exam results were received from some, but not all secondary schools.

Clare Hawkins said schools were made aware of exam topics this year to enable students to focus their revision.

**Action:** Janet Giddings to contact those secondary schools who had not supplied their exam results.

7.2 Secondary and Primary Networks – David Rees, Professional Consultant

The latest Secondary Network Meeting covered recovery learning, return to studying and how to motivate students. Extra help and support is available thanks to additional funding received from West Berkshire Council in 2020.

The next Primary Network Meetings are due to take place during the next two half terms and on a termly basis in future.

## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 2 NOVEMBER 2021 - MINUTES

David Rees was exploring options to engage with RE Leaders in schools during the pandemic. Ideas include sharing resources such as free materials, educational website links and videos. A virtual conference was also under consideration. Rose Carberry offered to share resources with Headteachers on behalf of SACRE. This was welcomed by David Rees who wanted to make sure his communications were reaching those involved in teaching RE.

Members discussed the success of recent classroom videos. It was agreed that post-pandemic it may be possible to record visits to schools and places of worship that could be shared.

### 7.3 Covid Recovery Support – Clare Hawkins, NASUWT

Clare Hawkins announced that 78 care packages containing the book “Make Every RE Lesson Count” were distributed to local secondary schools recently. Two of the ten secondary schools in West Berkshire accepted the offer of RE tutoring sessions. Clare also ran an online session “So you’re new to leading RE” and CPD sessions to discover new denominations such as Zen Buddhism.

David Taylor thanked West Berkshire Council for providing the funding for this project.

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This Item was discussed in Part II of the meeting:

### 7.4 Support for Secondary Schools

- a) Park House: Councillor David Marsh, Councillor Billy Drummond
- b) John O’Gaunt: David Taylor, Chair

## 8 **New Agreed Syllabus - David Taylor, Chair and David Rees, Professional Consultant**

The West Berkshire SACRE Syllabus 2018-2023 is due to be updated but would be delayed to 2024 as a result of the pandemic. David Taylor explained there would be the option to work with our five neighbouring SACREs or as an individual committee. He felt the benefits of collaboration outweighed the cost (£900) which would be the majority of the SACRE budget. Val Bolan stated her support for the proposal to work with other SACREs and Rabbi Zvi Solomons agreed the Pan Berkshire Syllabus worked well and should be continued.

Action: David Taylor to contact the Pan Berkshire Hub to confirm West Berkshire SACREs commitment to working together on the new syllabus.

## 9 **Hub - David Taylor, Chair and David Rees, Professional Consultant**

The Real People, Real Faith videos were discussed at the last Hub meeting. David Taylor was keen to hear how they were received by teachers. Amanda Bedding had used the videos in lessons and thought they were a great resource. Roseanna Looker was aware of the videos and was keen to integrate them but had not yet had the opportunity to do so.

## 10 **Newsletter - David Rees, Professional Consultant**

David Rees invited Members and guest to contribute to the newsletter which is sent out during the second week of each term. The next issue is January.

## 11 **2021-22 Budget Update and Action Plan - David Rees, Professional Consultant**

## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 2 NOVEMBER 2021 - MINUTES

David Rees presented the Budget Update and Action Plan which sets out in detail the actions required to achieve SACRE's Core Business Aims which are:

- A. To be a supportive and proactive SACRE enjoying full and well-informed membership
- B. To support teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in their schools
- C. To support the ongoing work of the Pan Berkshire Hub

Members were aware of the difficulties of maintaining collective worship in schools during the pandemic. Many have risen to the challenge by holding virtual assemblies.

### 12 **Equality and Diversity - David Taylor, Chair**

David Taylor intends to invite Pamela Voss, Equality & Diversity Officer, West Berkshire Council to a future SACRE meeting to participate in a discussion on the membership of SACRE.

### 13 **Next Meeting Dates and Venues to Agree - Janet Giddings, Clerk**

David Taylor and David Rees will propose dates for meetings in 2022. The first meeting will be held in March. The venue is dependent on Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time of the meeting.

### 14 **Any Other Business**

Rabbi Zvi Solomons mentioned upcoming dates in the Jewish calendar (Hanukkah, Holocaust Memorial Day) as well as Remembrance Sunday. Cllr Billy Drummond said West Berkshire Council had commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day previously but not in recent years.

### 15 **Part II - Live Stream ended 17:49pm**

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7.4 Support for Secondary Schools

a) Park House: Councillor David Marsh, Councillor Billy Drummond

Cllr David Marsh was keen to ask the school about their RE provision. He had positive discussions last year with the Headteacher, Tom Goodenough, who is no longer in post. The new leadership team started in September 2021. Park House School is in Cllr David Marsh's Ward. Cllr Billy Drummond expressed an interest in supporting him so they will work together and report back at the next SACRE meeting. David Taylor thanked them for the way they have approached this.

b) John O'Gaunt: David Taylor, Chair

David Taylor visited John O'Gaunt recently and met with the Head of Humanities and MFL, Tony Hammond. He confirmed Years 10 and 11 regularly attend RE lessons and the school is fulfilling its obligations regarding RE provision.

David Taylor asked Members if they had visited or intended to visit any schools. Amanda Bedding said she was trying to contact Denefield School.

**Action:** Janet Giddings to send contact details for Denefield School to Amanda Bedding

Meeting Closed at 17:57pm

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 2 NOVEMBER 2021 -  
MINUTES**