

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, 24 MAY 2022**

**VENUE: ROGER CROFT ROOM COUNCIL OFFICES MARKET STREET
NEWBURY**

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)

Group C – Teaching Association Members

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

Group D – WBC Councillors

Councillor Lynne Doherty, Councillor Billy Drummond and Councillor David Marsh

Also Present: Rose Carberry, Tom Dunn (Zoom Host), Jack Karimi (Clerk) and Dilip Ladwa

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Kate House, Roseanne Obsiye, Robin Sharples and Pamela Voss

30 Membership

David Taylor noted that Jack Karimi is the new clerk.

Jack Karimi provided the update regarding the ID process for installing Roseanne Obsiye and Dilip Ladwa to the Committee. IDs had been drafted for installing the new members and those were being checked.

Rose Carberry noted that Kate House would take over as the LA Advisor from the next meeting. The Chairman thanked her for recruiting Kate House.

31 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2022 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

32 Actions

The list of actions arising were approved.

33 Equality & Diversity (Pamela Voss)

The item was rescheduled to the next meeting as Pamela Voss was not present.

34 SACRE Overview 2022 (David Taylor)

The Chairman noted that the remit of SACRE was collective worship and Religious Education, and that a lot was being done by the Committee on Religious Education but

less focus was on Religious Education. It was agreed that the new syllabus would be delayed until 2024, and a number of visits had been held.

The Committee was part of the Berkshire Hub, which combined six SACREs in Berkshire, and the Chairman and David Rees had been attending those meetings, where they had been provided an update on the 'Real People, Real Faith' video series, and an Annual Conference would be held on the new syllabus. David Rees noted that there were no plans for an Annual Conference but that they were able to do that now. The Chairman noted that he had taken over the Annual Report, and that the Committee remained a member of NASACRE.

35 2022-23 Action Plan (David Rees)

David Rees presented the 2022-23 Action Plan. The Chairman noted that the Committee should think about the Collective Worship piece and what they wanted to do about that. In addition, the Conference was an issue for the Hub.

The Chairman asked the teachers on the Committee for input on collective worship.

Mobasshir Mushtaq asked what was involved in collective worship and was being asked of schools. The Chairman responded that schools were asked to provide an act of collective worship that reflected Christianity as the main religion, but also all faiths and no faith.

Clare Hawkins noted that it was a legal requirement, but that law was being reconsidered as it was difficult to provide a balanced collective worship that accommodated all children, and that the responsibility was not on the Head of RE. Amanda Bedding stated that whole-school assemblies were returning. Rabbi Zvi Solomons noted that the Chair of Reading SACRE was very interested in collective worship, and it would be useful to speak to him, and that SACRE should be aware that the obligation was not binding on schools.

The Chairman noted that in his experience there were whole-school assemblies that were presenting religious ideas and themes, and that more practical resources at from other faiths were appreciated. At secondary schools, it was far less common, with assemblies being limited primarily to notices. Mobasshir Mushtaq responded that there were Islamic resources that could be offered, and that collective worship would have to adapt to be innovative, finding common grounds between faiths. The Chairman agreed that it was a good platform in which to share stories between faiths, and be inclusive to all, providing a quieter time in the day for all students. SACRE's role was to find and distribute those resources.

Dilip Ladwa asked whether the aim was to have everybody together in one place, or for diversity of religion. Rabbi Zvi Solomons responded that the legal framework stated that it should be of a primarily Christian nature, which he stated Jewish students would object to. Rabbi Solomons noted that the sharing of stories with universal application, and ways of worship that were comfortable for everybody would be the best approach, but may not fulfil the remit.

The Chairman asked Clare Hawkins what the state of the review was. Clare Hawkins responded that a white paper had been presented for consultation, and the change of the law in Wales to make RE and PSHE teaching compulsory has changed the conversation, and that the Government was being lobbied.

The Chairman suggested that the Government guidance be looked at more closely in advance for the next meeting. David Rees noted that SACREs across the country were struggling with defining it and determining their role in providing guidance and support.

36 2022-23 Budget (David Taylor)

David Rees left the Zoom call for the duration of the item.

The Chairman presented the Budget for the meeting. The Chairman noted that the amount given to David Rees for his services, experience and insight was good value. Councillor Billy Drummond, Val Bolan and Mobasshir Mushtaq concurred.

The Committee agreed the Budget for the 2022-23 period.

37 Schools

Exam Results

The Chairman noted that the 2021 results had not been provided to the Committee. Clare Hawkins noted that many schools have not declared them due to teacher-assessed grades, and Rose Carberry confirmed that direct comparisons were not available. Rose Carberry stated that she would ask the Post-16 advisor for more information.

Secondary and Primary Networks

David Rees stated that the secondary networks were being run through a subscription model. Clare Hawkins questioned this, as she had never seen a network run like the secondary networks were, usually affiliated through NATRE. Clare Hawkins questioned the group that the networks were being run through. David Rees responded that he was unfamiliar with this arrangement, and that his networks were being run through NATRE.

Amanda Bedding noted that she ran a network through the Berkshire Leadership Programme, which schools could subscribe to, and that she was the RE head for.

David Rees noted that his network did not have a subscription model, and that he was able to link networks in different areas to distribute resources and materials. David Rees noted that attendance was much better online.

38 Hub (David Taylor)

The Chairman noted that he attended the last Hub meeting in March. The Real People, Real Faith videos were being extended, and there was an opportunity for an RE teacher to write for RE Today. Clare Hawkins volunteered to write for it, with support from David Rees.

39 Newsletter and Updates (David Rees)

David Rees noted that the newsletter had come out on the first week of term, which was sent out to call SACRE members, and that the next one would go out on the second week of the September terms. It was an update on what was happening nationally

Clare Hawkins noted that she had proofread two of the Introduction to RE articles, which she thought would be useful for all to understand the curriculum around RE and the framework.

40 November Meeting Date and Venue

It was agreed that the next meeting would be livestreamed on YouTube.

Clare Hawkins proposed that the meeting be moved back to 4:30 PM. This was agreed by the Committee.

The next meeting was set for 1 November 2022 at 4:30 PM.

41 Any Other Business

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 24 MAY 2022 - MINUTES

Councillor David Marsh noted that a new headteacher had been appointed at John Rankin School, and that she insists on holding assemblies herself, even during lockdown. The shortlist of candidates each took an assembly during the hiring process, and he found the holding of assemblies to be encouraging.

42 Support for Individual Schools

(Paragraph 3 – information relating to financial/business affairs of particular organisation)

SACRE considered an exempt report (Agenda Item 13) which involved a discussion on support for individual schools.