

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2022**

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

Present:

Group A – Other Faiths Members

Dilip Ladwa (Hindu), 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) and Clare Hawkins (NASUWT)

Group D – WBC Councillors

Councillor Billy Drummond and Councillor Tony Linden

Also Present: Rose Carberry, David Rees (Professional Consultant), Pamela Voss, Tom Dunn (Zoom Host) and Jack Karimi (Clerk)

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Councillor David Marsh and Roseanna Obsiye

43 Membership

The Chairman noted that Julie Howell had moved on, and would no longer be observing SACRE meetings.

Val Bolan noted that she was in touch with Oxford Diocese regarding a replacement for Robin Sharples.

44 Election of Chair & Vice Chair for Academic Year 2022/23

Chair

David Taylor was proposed as Chair by Councillor Billy Drummond, seconded by Councillor Tony Linden.

David Taylor noted that it would probably be his last year as Chair, as he had become busier, and required help if he was to be re-elected as Chairman, with somebody attending the Hub in his place and working on the new syllabus. David Rees stated that it was sad, but work could be shared, and that Slough SACRE regularly sent two of its members to the Hub.

David Taylor was re-elected as Chair for Academic Year 2022/23.

Vice Chair

Clare Hawkins stated that she would be standing down as Vice Chair due to upcoming maternity leave, but could continue attending the Hub until March. David Taylor thanked Clare Hawkins on behalf of SACRE for her work as Vice Chair.

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 1 NOVEMBER 2022 - MINUTES

Amanda Bedding was proposed as Vice Chair by Val Bolan, seconded by Clare Hawkins. Amanda Bedding was unsure what the role entailed but offered to attend the Hub. Clare Hawkins explained the role and its collaborative function within SACRE, and Amanda Bedding accepted the nomination.

Amanda Bedding was elected as Vice Chair for Academic Year 2022/23.

45 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2022 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

46 Actions

No actions were raised.

47 Equality and Diversity

Pamela Voss introduced herself as the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, and leader of the EMTAS (Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service), and noted that EDI related strongly to the work of SACRE. The Council was developing a new EDI Framework which was clearer and more structured. EDI had been working with two external consultants to develop a strategy, informed by lived experience and volunteer organisations.

Rabbi Zvi Solomons asked which organisations had been consulted. Pamela Voss responded that Equal Group had been consulted on the survey and the Temple Group had been consulted on the framework and the Needs Assessment. The results of the Needs Assessment had not been published, but showed that the urban/rural divide had been exacerbated. In addition, new groups, such as the GRT (Gypsy, Roma and Traveller) community and refugees, needed to be approached to ascertain their needs, particularly as Covid-19 had changed needs around digital technology.

Councillor Tony Linden noted that Pamela Voss and her team had been helpful and a useful resource, and it would be a great benefit to use that resource.

Pamela Voss noted that she would like to keep attending SACRE, as any support the Committee could give would be useful. The Chairman thanked her for her attendance.

48 Draft Annual Report 2021-22

The Chairman presented the Draft Annual Report.

Val Bolan pointed out that exam results were omitted. Jack Karimi stated that exam results were not included as it was no longer possible for Democratic Services to get them. The Chairman expressed surprise that this had become an issue, as it was key information for SACRE. Clare Hawkins noted that the issue was raised at the last meeting, and that it was up to the schools whether they wished to declare their exam results.

Val Bolan asked whether they were published along with other subjects. Rose Carberry responded that it was only the core subjects that were published, and that schools would now need to be individually approached.

Val Bolan asked whether the Department for Education (DfE) could be approached. Clare Hawkins responded that only an overview was shared with central government.

The Chairman asked David Rees how the issue was approached by other SACREs. David Rees responded that he was perplexed by the situation, as SACRE did need the

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 1 NOVEMBER 2022 - MINUTES

information to monitor Religious Education teaching, and suggested approaching the DfE or NASACRE for advice.

Clare Hawkins noted that entry data could easily be taken from the exam boards. David Rees added that 1 in 5 schools were not offering RE.

Chris Ward asked about secondary network meetings in West Berkshire. David Rees responded that they could be asked for data.

The Chairman noted that it was another year that Religious Education was given more focus than Collective Worship.

It was agreed that SACRE would approach NASACRE and the secondary network for advice. It was agreed that SACRE would adopt the Annual Report and Action Plan.

49 Hub

David Rees noted that a Hub meeting had taken place on 5 September, which was well-attended.

David Rees noted that he would be contacting NATRE to see if the Real People, Real Faith videos were being used. A Humanist film was being worked on, as well as a Baha'i one. The Chairman had contacted the Salvation Army but had received no reply.

David Rees noted that it was not clear who was running the syllabus review, but it needed to be collaborative and a compromise between open and detailed. There was a wide range of syllabi across the country which David Rees had consulted.

Rabbi Zvi Solomons thanked David Rees for his work.

A Real People, Real Faith video was shown to SACRE of the gurdwara in Slough. Dilip Ladwa noted that he had reviewed the Hindu ones and that they were direct and to the point, and he strongly recommended them for use in the classroom. David Rees responded that he was taking feedback on how best to use them in the classroom. Dilip Ladwa offered to proofread the notes for future videos.

50 New Syllabus

David Rees asked members to fill in concept charts and provide feedback on the new syllabus.

The Chair noted that additional funding had been requested from the Council. David Rees noted that it was a statutory requirement and there was a separate pot, so funding should be accessible.

51 Collective Worship

David Rees noted that not a lot of work had been done on Collective Worship since the Covid-19 pandemic. There was still a lot of confusion and misunderstanding about what it was, and a document could be circulated to schools. NASACRE could additionally be asked for advice. David Rees noted that Collective Worship needed to be underlined as a senior leadership role, not one for RE teachers.

The Chairman agreed that it had fallen down the agenda during the Covid-19 pandemic, and that he could ask at his termly breakfast for headteachers what people were doing.

Rabbi Zvi Solomons noted that a Church of England minister, Simon Thorne, could be good addition to SACRE and would be able to contribute on the issue.

Amanda Bedding noted that whole-school assemblies were beginning to return, and questions could be asked at the next networking event.

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 1 NOVEMBER 2022 - MINUTES

Chris Ward noted that The Willink had a Collective Worship policy, and many themes and issues were raised.

It was agreed that the Chairman, Amanda Bedding and Chris Ward would make enquiries about Collective Worship.

52 Networks

David Rees stated that the primary network was well-attended. Questions linked to worship, belief and faith in action had been raised, and attendees were asked to explain their own worldview their answers to those questions. The secondary network discussed raising the profile of Religious Studies in Key Stage 3, which went on to GCSE and A Level, and the RE Quality Mark, which was a useful auditing tool.

The secondary network additionally discussed recall of information through quizzes and exercises. The next meeting of the secondary network was in March 2023, which David Rees would be able to attend.

53 Newsletter

David Rees stated that the newsletter would go out in the second week of term, with the next due in June 2023. The next one was open to submissions by mid-December 2022.

Mobasshir Mushtaq stated that he would come back with details from the Muslim community and potential school trips to mosques.

It was agreed that Collective Worship and Real People, Real Faith would be added to the next newsletter.

54 2022-23 Budget Update and Action Plan

David Rees noted that Item 7 (Collective Worship) was on the Action Plan. SACRE was fulfilling all of its key roles, as well as additional roles with monitoring from area representatives, and with the Hub.

55 Next Meeting Date and Venue

It was agreed that, to see which configuration worked better, SACRE would hold one meeting entirely over Zoom, and one meeting entirely in person.

21 February 2023 at 4:30 pm (entirely over Zoom).

6 June 2023 at 4:30 pm (entirely in person, venue to be decided).

56 Any Other Business

Dilip Ladwa volunteered to attend the Hub. The Chairman responded that he was willing to take volunteers to the next Hub.

57 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.