



# **Annual SACRE Report**

## **2014-2015**

The SACRE has several aspects to its role. It:

- Advises the local authority on matters relating to collective worship and religious education
- Advises on methods of teaching and resources for religious education
- Decides whether or not to grant determinations to those schools which apply to have daily worship which is other than of a broadly Christian character
- Identifies the need for a revised religious education syllabus

To help with this endeavour the West Berkshire SACRE works with NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs).

This report sets out a brief summary of the work of the West Berkshire SACRE over the academic year 2014-2015. The minutes of the meetings which give more detail can be found at <http://www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18199&q=SACRE>

The make up and terms of reference can be found at the same address

For more information about the role and business of the SACRE please contact:

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## **The West Berkshire SACRE**

This was a year of significant change for the SACRE. Sandra Wylie who was Chair for many years decided to step down from the role to enjoy her retirement. Members expressed their gratitude to her for all her years of highly committed service and acknowledged that she as well as her enthusiasm and expertise would be missed. Other members also left during the year and were thanked for their involvement: Rabbi Zvi Solomons, Alex Butler, Daniel Boyes and Cllr Dominic Boeck. Julia Feeney had been appointed to represent the Roman Catholic Church but had been unable to attend meetings and also resigned. The headteacher of St Finian's RC Primary School ???? was nominated to replace her.

Whilst disappointed to lose these valuable members, the SACRE was extremely pleased to welcome Rebecca Aboutaj to fill the long-running vacancy for a representative of Islam. They were also pleased that Jo Davies was able to fill the ATL vacancy for the next school year and that Sue Plackett would remain a member but transfer to the Church of England group.

Following Sandra Wylie's resignation, Mary Harwood was elected to the role of Chair and Bernard Eggleton agreed to continue as Vice Chair.

## **Training**

Meetings for primary school RE leaders have continued and addressed a variety of themes particularly ideas linked to the development of key questions and using RE trails and places of worship.

The secondary RE network ceased to be represented on the SACRE when Daniel Boyes resigned in order to take up a teaching job in Reading. The network was asked to consider who might replace Daniel so that communication between the group and the SACRE could continue efficiently.

## **Resources**

This year saw the plan to develop RE trails around Newbury and Thatcham come to fruition. A small group of teachers (Helen Webb from Parsons Down Infants School; Penny Judge from Thatcham Park Primary School; Alex Butler and Jo Davies from The Willows Primary School; Rachel Manley from St Nicolas Junior School) and Jo Fageant gathered material for the project and organised it around key themes and questions to form three trails. Themes included reflection, worship, remembrance and service. David Wylie was engaged by the SACRE to create a web based version of the RE trails material and he attended the autumn meeting to demonstrate the interactive map behind which teachers would be able to explore a wealth of information and ideas. The SACRE is enormously grateful to David for all his work on creating this resource (<http://www.retrailsforwestberks.net>) into which he incorporated the pre-existing Newbury Martyrs trail. The website was launched in February at a meeting of RE coordinators which was disappointingly attended. However, those who were present were enthused and inspired by what they saw and the project received coverage in the Newbury Weekly News. It was agreed that an additional trail focused on the north Newbury area would be

developed during the next academic year.

The loan collection of books, pictures, artefacts and more is available at St John's CE Infant School, Old Newtown Road, Newbury. A list of what the collection comprises is available .

### **Partnership working**

Jo Fageant attended the NASACRE AGM in May. Once again this was a very beneficial experience of meeting with members of other SACREs throughout the country. Charles Clarke made the keynote presentation referring significantly to a paper he had written with Linda Woodhead which would be published soon after the meeting. Jo reported back to the SACRE at the final meeting of the year and the paper (A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools <http://faithdebates.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/A-New-Settlement-for-Religion-and-Belief-in-schools.pdf>) was made available electronically for members to consider in preparation for their next meeting. It was later launched at a high profile event held in the House of Lords.

Mary Harwood met with the Chairs of the SACREs of Bracknell Forest, Reading, Slough, Windsor/Maidenhead and Wokingham to explore the possibilities of co-operative working and/or joint projects. The outcome of lively and positive discussions was the decision to bid for funding from the Culham St Gabriel's Trust (CStG) to support the development of training and resources which could enrich visits by schools to places of worship. The plan included meetings for teachers and people who host school visits in their places of worship to explore how these occasions can be most beneficial in supporting the aims of the West Berkshire RE syllabus. It also involved the development of booking, planning and evaluation sheets to improve the communication between schools and faith communities to enrich these experiences. Funding of £2000 was awarded by CStG for the project and the plan, drawing in people and expertise from the six local authorities, began to be implemented during the summer term. The SACRE is grateful to teachers and faith community members from West Berkshire who have taken part in this project so far. It is ongoing with the advisers to the SACREs seeking schools who plan to make visits to places of worship in the autumn of 2015 to volunteer to try out the draft materials. The annual Joint SACREs Conference held in June at Easthampstead Park in Bracknell was used to launch this project, highlighting the value of closer partnership working between schools and faith communities. This was a highly successful evening during which enormous enthusiasm and energy for the project was obvious. Updates will be shared at autumn meetings with teachers throughout the six local authorities involved.

### **Collective Worship**

Collective worship has been given little attention by the SACRE this year and no applications for a determination have been received. Schools which have become academies are advised that they now need to apply for determinations via the EFA using a DfE template. Details can be obtained from Jo Fageant should they be needed.

**Membership of West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education  
2014-2015**

<b>Representing</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>
<b>Group A: Christian denominations and other religions</b>		
Free Churches	Mrs Sandra Wylie	1/1
	Rev Bev French	0/3
Roman Catholic Church	Ms Julia Feeney	0/?
Buddhism	Mr David McKay	0/3
Hinduism	Vacancy	
Islam	Rebecca Aboutaj	1/2
Judaism	Rabbi Zvi Solomons	0/2
Sikhism	Vacancy	
<b>Group B: The Church of England</b>		
	Ms Alex Butler	1/3
	Rev Mary Harwood	3/3
	Maria Pratico	1/3
	Robin Sharples	2/3
<b>Group C: Associations representing teachers</b>		
NASUWT	Mr Bernard Eggleton	3/3
NAHT	Mrs Sue Plackett	2/3
ATL	Mr Daniel Boyes	0/1
VOICE	Vacancy	
ASCL	Vacancy	
NUT	Vacancy	
<b>Group D: The Local Authority</b>		
	Cllr Pamela Bale	1/3
	Cllr Dominic Boeck	0/2
	Cllr Carol Jackson Doerge	2/3
	Cllr Billy Drummond	0/3
	Cllr Sheila Ellison	1/1
<b>Local Authority Officer:</b>	Mr Keith Harvey	2/3
<b>Professional Adviser:</b>	Ms Jo Fageant	2/3
<b>Clerk:</b>	Jayne Mann	1/3
<b>Also in attendance</b>		
	David Wylie (presenting RE trails)	1/1
	Waheeda Soomro	1/1
	Rebecca Aboutaj	1/1
	Jo Davies (new ATL nomination)	1/1
	Will Walker (NWN)	1/1
<b>End of year vacancies:-</b>		
ASCL		
NUT		
VOICE		
Hinduism		
Judaism		
Sikhism		