



Annual SACRE Report 2018-2019

(Sep 2018-Aug 2019)

What is a SACRE?

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 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). It has also joined with five other neighbouring SACREs to form the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub in order to undertake more significant projects than it could manage alone.

This report sets out a brief summary of the work of the West Berkshire SACRE over the academic year 2017-2018. The minutes of the meetings which give more detail can be found at

<http://decisionmaking.westberks.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=354&MeetingId=4097>

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:

The Clerk – Linda Pye: Linda.Pye@westberks.gov.uk

Adviser – David Rees: david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com

Local Authority Officer – Rachel Manley: headteacher@yattendon.w-berks.sch.uk

Membership

This year has seen a lot of change in our membership. Councillors Sheila Ellison and Carol Jackson-Doerge, Advisers Alison Harris and Keith Harvey, and Mary Harwood all stepped down during the year. Grateful thanks was expressed to them for their hard work and commitment to SACRE.

Rachel Manley (Head Teacher at Yattendon Primary School) and David Rees (Reading RE Adviser) took over as Local Authority Officer and RE Adviser respectively. In addition, six more new members joined us during the year. Three had served on the committee previously: Mary Stagg (Group B), Maria Pratico (Group B) and Clare Nolan (Group C). The other three were Councillors Peter Argyle, Tony Linden and David Marsh.

David Taylor and Bernard Eggleton continued to serve as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Other active members included Val Bolan and Mobashir Mushtaq, and we welcomed other occasional visitors.

Meetings

Three meetings were held this year: 6 November, 6 March and 11 June. The first two were held at Thatcham Baptist Church and the third at Theale Green School.

Each of our three meetings was attended by a different Council Officer to take the minutes. Whilst we have appreciated this work being covered, for the sake of consistency and good communication it would be much more beneficial if a permanent Clerk were allocated to us as before. The minutes of our March meeting were lost before they could be delivered to the Committee, which was disappointing to say the least.

Actions and Budget

As planned, we held three primary teachers' network meetings during the year, two run by Alison Harris and one by David Rees. These were well attended and much appreciated by teachers. David Taylor attended the existing secondary network meetings. We also continued to pursue those secondary schools not complying with the law over RE provision, and saw some encouraging developments, though not as much as is needed.

The planned discussion of Collective Worship was postponed until November 2019 when we could discuss this with Sue Ball. Our aim to contact primary schools who do not attend the network meetings proved too ambitious this year.

It was good to hear from Julie Webber about RE at Theale Green when we met there. During the year we also continued to encourage schools to use the *Crossing the Bridges* directory, and discussed initiatives taken by the Berkshire Hub (see below). We also heard about support for pupils fasting for Ramadan during exams.

We renewed our subscription to NASACRE during the year which had lapsed.

The Hub

SACRE Chairs and professional advisers to the SACREs continued to meet each term to discuss work undertaken at hub level. During the year the hub recently won a Westhill Award to produce a series of videos interviewing representatives of different faiths in their places of worship, to be used in schools.

Collective Worship

It has not been necessary to renew any determinations during this year. A determination is permission for a school to provide daily collective worship which is not 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.

Public Examination Results

In 2019 there were ??? entries for GCSE Religious Studies. There was a ??% pass rate, with ??% achieving grade 4 or above, as compared to ??% nationally. This represents an improvement?? on last year's performance.

There were ?? entries for A level Religious Studies: There was a ??pass rate, with ?? achieving grade C or above.

Membership of West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 2018-2019

Representing	Member	Meetings attended
Group A	Christian denominations and other religions	
	Mr. Mobasshir Mushtaq	1
	Revd David Taylor	3
Group B	The Church of England	
	Mrs Valerie Bolan	3
	Revd Mary Harwood	1
	Mrs Mary Pratico	1
	Mrs Mary Stagg	3
Group C	Associations representing teachers	
	Mr Bernard Eggleton	2
	Ms Clare Nolan	1
Group D	The Local Authority	
	Councillor Pamela Bale (to May 2019)	0
	Councillor Billy Drummond	0
	Councillor Sheila Ellison (to May 2019)	2
	Councillor Carol Jackson-Doerge (to May 2019)	0
	Councillor Peter Argyle (from May 2019)	1
	Councillor Tony Linden (from May 2019)	1
	Councillor David Marsh (from May 2019)	1
Clerk	Stephen Chard	1
	Janet Giddings	1
	Linda Pye	1
Professional RE Adviser	Alison Harris (to March 2019)	2
	David Rees (from March 2019)	1
LA Adviser	Keith Harvey (to March 2019)	2
	Rachel Manley (from March 2019)	1