



Annual SACRE Report 2019-2020

(Sep 2019-Aug 2020)

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 2019-2020. 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 – Janet Giddings: janet.giddings@westberks.gov.uk

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

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

Coronavirus Pandemic

As with the rest of society, our meetings and activities this year were very much affected by the outbreak of coronavirus early in 2020. This is reflected throughout this report.

Membership

There was a high degree of commitment from members this year, with very good overall attendance at SACRE meetings. Rabbi Zvi Solomons rejoined us in Group A to represent the Jewish faith. Along with Rachel Manley and Maria Pratico he was formally appointed to SACRE in December 2019. During the year several other people expressed an interest in joining SACRE and conversations were started with each.

David Taylor and Bernard Eggleton continued to serve as Chair and Vice Chair respectively, and Rachel Manley as our LA Adviser. David Rees continued as our Professional Adviser, and his support and expertise proved invaluable.

Janet Giddings, Appeals Officer at WBC, served as our minute secretary during the year, and her regular work and support on our behalf was very much appreciated. We also received support from Donna Fox, Principal Adviser for School Improvement, Moira Fraser, Support Officer, and Jo Watt, Members Services Officer.

Meetings

Four meetings were held this year: 12 November 2019 at Thatcham Baptist Church, 25 February 2020 at West Berkshire Council Offices, 19 May 2020 as a webinar and an informal meeting of members on Zoom on 21 July 2020.

Actions and Budget

In November Sue Ball and Penny Judge from Thatcham Park School led us in a discussion of Collective Worship. In February Donna Fox outlined her role as Principal Adviser for Schools Improvement and we explored ways in which we might work together with her. In May Joni McAuliffe from Christian Outreach in Newbury Schools described the work of COINS to us. So it was a very good year for networking with others.

As planned, David Rees held three primary teachers' network meetings during the year, two in person and one online. These were much appreciated by teachers, especially during the coronavirus crisis. David Rees also attended a secondary network meeting, and another was cancelled due to coronavirus. David Rees and Clare Hawkins made considerable efforts to support teachers during the months when schools were closed.

David Rees and Clare Hawkins produced our first West Berks SACRE newsletter as a really valuable communication tool with teachers throughout the district.

Clare Hawkins was involved with the new RE teaching training course at Reading University and offered to introduce some of the students to our SACRE. This was delayed because of the virus but is still in our plans.

To aid schools' recovery from the months of absence caused by the virus, SACRE was granted an extra £5,000 budget. We allocated this towards tutoring for secondary RE students, virtual tours of local places of worship using Zoom technology, video-based CPD training, three additional network meetings to be run by David Rees, an additional event for non RE teachers to be run by David Rees, and resource packs for primary schools.

The Hub

SACRE Chairs and professional advisers to the SACREs continued to meet regularly to discuss work undertaken at hub level. In 2019-20 this focused mainly on the *Real People, Real Faith* video project. Four videos were completed before coronavirus struck and after that the project was necessarily halted temporarily.

The SACRE annual conference planned for July 2020 was also postponed due to the virus.

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 2020 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 2019-2020

Representing	Member	Meetings attended
Group A	Christian denominations and other religions	
	Mr. Mobasshir Mushtaq	3
	Rabbi Zvi Solomons	1
	Revd David Taylor (Chair)	4
Group B	The Church of England	
	Mrs Valerie Bolan	3
	Mrs Mary Pratico	2
	Mr. Robin Sharples	2
	Mrs Mary Stagg	2
Group C	Associations representing teachers	
	Mr Bernard Eggleton	3
	Mrs Clare Hawkins	3
Group D	The Local Authority	
	Councillor Billy Drummond	3
	Councillor Peter Argyle	3
	Councillor Tony Linden	4
	Councillor David Marsh	3
Professional RE Adviser	David Rees	4
LA Adviser	Rachel Manley	3

WBC	Donna Fox	3
	Moirra Fraser	2
Clerk	Janet Giddings	2
	Jo Watt	1

DRAFT