

WEST BERKSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2020

VENUE: DUE TO COVID-19 THIS MEETING WAS HELD ONLINE AS A WEBINAR

Present:

Group A – Other Faiths Members

Mobasshir Mushtaq (Muslim) and Revd David Taylor (Thatcham Baptist Church)

Group B – Church of England Members

Val Bolan (Church of England) and Mary Stagg (Church of England)

Group C – Teaching Association Members

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

Group D – WBC Councillors: Councillor David Marsh

LA Adviser: David Rees

Also Present: Janet Giddings

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Councillor Peter Argyle, Councillor Billy Drummond (WBC), Bernard Eggleton (NASUWT), Donna Fox (Principal Adviser for School Improvement), Councillor Tony Linden, Rachel Manley, Maria Pratico (Church of England), Robin Sharples (Church of England) and Rabbi Zvi Solomons (Jewish)

1 Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

2 Membership

David Taylor welcomed new Members Amanda Bedding and Chris Ward.

Amanda is a teacher at Calcot Primary School with a degree in Theology. Chris is a newly qualified RE teacher at The Willink School, a secondary school in Burghfield Common.

Whilst West Berkshire SACRE is fortunate to be represented by Members in each Group, new Members (particularly those from non-Christian faiths) would be encouraged to join.

3 Election of Chair & Vice Chair for academic year 2020/21

The meeting host, Stephen Chard, Principal Policy Officer, invited nominations from Members to stand as Chair of West Berkshire SACRE. Val Bolan nominated David Taylor, seconded by Mary Stagg. All Members indicated their approval with a show of hands. David Taylor was appointed Chair of West Berkshire SACRE. He thanked Members, saying it was a privilege to be Chair.

David Taylor explained he had discussed the nomination of Vice Chair with the current post holder, Bernard Eggleton, who had decided to resign from the role. The meeting host, Stephen Chard, Principal Policy Officer, invited nominations from Members to stand as Chair of West Berkshire SACRE. David Taylor nominated Clare Hawkins, seconded by Val Bolan. All Members indicated their approval with a show of hands. Clare Hawkins was appointed Vice Chair of West Berkshire SACRE.

Members wish to formally thank Bernard Eggleton for his service as Vice Chair and continued support of West Berkshire SACRE.

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4 Minutes of last two meetings

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2020 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 Matters arising from the Minutes and Actions (not covered elsewhere)

There were no matters arising from the Minutes or Actions (not covered elsewhere).

6 Schools

6.1 Recovery Support: updates on use of extra funding – Clare Hawkins

An informal meeting of WB SACRE was held on 21st July 2020 to decide how the £5,000 of extra funding would be spent.

After some discussion the Committee agreed that the funding should be allocated as set out below.

- Tutoring for secondary RE students. Tutors would be paid £15 per hour. Each of the 10 secondary schools would initially be offered ten one hour sessions. These could be rebalanced depending on take up. Tutoring would be offered in small groups of three or four students. Funding of £1500 would be set aside for this initiative.
- Clare Hawkins agreed to produce virtual tours of local places of worship using Zoom technology. These would then be made available to teachers using a password system. Clare Hawkins agreed to adapt existing policies to ensure guidelines were being adhered to. A draft could be circulated to SACRE for comment. These would be an additional resource to the Real People/ Real Faith videos that were under production. It was agreed £500 could be set aside to fund this work.
- In addition a further £500 would be set aside to produce videos based on CPD training where members of a faith community would be interviewed. These would be aimed at Key Stage 2, 3 and 4 pupils. The theme would be around how local faith groups adapted to living in West Berkshire.
- The Committee also agreed to spend £900 on three additional network meetings to be run by David Rees. The group also felt that it would be useful to hold an additional event for non RE teachers to be run by David Rees. They agreed to set £300 aside for this. They suggested that it would be useful to incorporate a question and answer slot on this agenda and that it could be used as an opportunity to share good practice.
- The Committee agreed to set aside a further £1000 to produce resource packs for primary schools, it was agreed that Clare Hawkins and David Rees could put them together and that Chris Ward could be asked for some input too.
- This would leave a surplus of circa £300 that could be held as a contingency fund.

Clare Hawkins had hoped to share more information at this meeting but had only received one reply from the nine Heads of Department she contacted. Clare Hawkins and David Rees met before half term to discuss support for primary schools. Clare Hawkins also contacted the Finance Department at West Berkshire Council to arrange for the funding to be made available to WB SACRE.

6.2 West Berks RE exam results – Janet Giddings

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6.3 Primary Schools/Network – David Rees

The last primary schools' network meeting was held on 6th October 2020, attended by 15 RE leaders on Zoom. Topics included the newsletter, online resources (regional and national), and virtual training. There is a need for virtual speakers/tours. David Rees said an Imam from Reading Mosque gave a talk to the Slough primary schools' network recently and would be happy to speak to the West Berkshire primary schools' network. Mobasshir Mushtaq said he was invited to speak at St Bartholomew's School, Newbury and Theale Green School this autumn. If there was sufficient interest, Mobasshir Mushtaq has a number of local contacts experienced in speaking to primary schools that he could approach for WB SACRE.

6.4 Secondary Schools/Network – David Taylor

The secondary schools' network met on 8th October 2020 on Zoom. The group discussed the Real Faith/Real People project. The Pan-Berkshire Hub has produced four videos which will be made available to teachers on True Tube (a website sharing award winning free resources for RE, PSHE and Citizenship).

6.5 Newsletter – David Rees

The Autumn newsletter was published in September 2020. David Rees is gathering content for the next newsletter, to include input from the NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) newsletter published this week.

Action: SACRE members are invited to send contributions to the newsletter to David Rees/Clare Hawkins by the end of November.

Action: Janet Giddings to send the Autumn newsletter and future newsletters to SACRE members.

6.6 Approach to Tom Goodenough

David Taylor explained to members that SACRE wishes to engage with Park House School regarding its RE provision. The school is within Wash Common Ward, represented by Councillor David Marsh, a member of SACRE. David Marsh confirmed he had indicated to the school he would like to meet with the new Principal, but acknowledged he had only started in the role in September 2020.

7 Annual Report - David Taylor

David Taylor invited comments from Members on the Annual Report. Val Bolan thanked David Taylor, saying it was a fair reflection and as she remembered it. David Taylor was encouraged by the attendance at meetings, thanking West Berkshire Council Members for their support.

Action: Janet Giddings to add exam results when they are supplied by schools.

8 2020-21 Budget and Action Plan Update - David Rees

David Rees presented the Budget/Action Plan setting out the aims for the next year. The Action Plan is under review.

Meetings are currently held online due to the coronavirus outbreak. Primary and secondary school network meetings are well attended. These are held every half term for RE subject leaders to share ideas and resources. WB SACRE has introduced a termly newsletter to communicate with RE subject leaders.

WB SACRE subscribes to NASACRE, the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils. NASACRE works to support, strengthen and promote the work done by local SACREs and represents the interests of members at a national level.

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They provide a range of services for member SACREs, including full access to our training and support materials, other resources and FAQs.

The NASACRE Conference will be held online on 24th May 2021.

David Taylor asked Amanda Bedding and Chris Ward for their views. Amanda Bedding said she found it very interesting and had made notes to follow up. She was thinking of ideas and was looking forward to being a part of it. She was keen to join after seeing the last meeting online in May 2021. Chris Ward explained he had a 30 year old degree and was new to teaching. One of a team of 5 teaching RE at The Willink School, he particularly enjoyed teaching Year 7, and Year 9 who were starting their GCSEs. He thought being a SACRE member would be fun and interesting. David Taylor thanked them both for attending the meeting.

Action: Janet Giddings to send the NASACRE website link to members.

9 Hub

David Rees is to enquire when the Pan Berkshire SACRE Hub meetings will be held.

10 Questions from Students? - Clare Hawkins

This item was brought forward from the previous meeting. It is no longer relevant due to the coronavirus outbreak and will be removed from the next agenda.

11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meetings will be held on Tuesday 23rd February 2021 and Tuesday 18th May 2021.

12 Any Other Business

David Taylor had received an email from the National Association of SACREs to advise they would be contacting local authorities about funding.