

Notice of Meeting

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Tuesday, 6th November, 2018 at 4.30 pm
in Thatcham Baptist Church

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Moira Fraser on 01635 519045
e-mail: Moira.Fraser@westberks.gov.uk



WestBerkshire
C O U N C I L

Agenda - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to be held on Tuesday, 6 November 2018 (continued)

To: Group A - Other Faith Members:

Mrs Lucy Gallagher (Catholic), Mr Mobasshir Mushtaq and Revd David Taylor (Thatcham Baptist Church)

Group B – Faith Members:

Val Bolan (School Admission Appeals Panel - Education Member), Revd Mary Harwood (C of E), Mr Robin Sharples (C of E) and Mrs Mary Stagg (Church of England)

Group C – Teaching Association Members:

Mr Bernard Eggleton (NASUWT) and Ms Clare Nolan (NASUWT)

Group D – WBC Councillors:

Councillor Pamela Bale (WBC), Councillor Billy Drummond (WBC), Councillor Sheila Ellison (WBC) and Councillor Carol Jackson-Doerge (WBC)

LA Advisors:

Ms Alison Harris (Independent Consultant) and Keith Harvey (Head Teacher)

Agenda

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Agenda - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to be held on Tuesday, 6 November 2018 *(continued)*

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WEST BERKSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 15 MAY 2018

**VENUE: THE ROGER CROFT ROOM, WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL, MARKET
STREET, NEWBURY, RG14 5LD**

Present:

Group A – Other Faith Members

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

Group B – Faith Members

Mrs Valerie Bolan (C of E), Revd Mary Harwood (C of E) and Mr Robin Sharples (C of E)

Group C – Teaching Association Members

Mr Bernard Eggleton (NASUWT)

Group D – WBC Councillors

Councillor Pamela Bale (WBC) and Councillor Billy Drummond (WBC)

Also Present: Ms Alison Harris (Independent Consultant) and Jo Reeves (Principal Policy Officer)

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Councillor Sheila Ellison (WBC), Mrs Lucy Gallagher (Catholic), Councillor Carol Jackson-Doerge (WBC) and Jo Watt (Appeals Officer)

58 Overview of West Berkshire SACRE - Reverend David Taylor

The Reverend David Taylor (Chairman) welcomed everybody to the meeting and drew the Committee's attention to the document at page 25 of the agenda regarding an overview of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). The Committee noted the document.

59 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2018 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:

Membership update - Page 4: 'Debbie Arden-Hunt' to be replaced with 'Debi Arden-Hunt'. David Taylor also corrected that Mrs Arden-Hunt was an IT teacher; she had expressed interest in joining the Committee but had not been able to attend the meeting.

Feedback from Hub meeting - Page 5, 4th bullet: replace 'GCSE' with 'Key Stage 4'.
Page 6: Alison Harris advised that the £30 price for the 'Understanding Christianity' resource was only available to church schools.

60 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

61 Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus Draft 6 feedback and actions

Alison Harris introduced draft 6 of the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education which had been streamlined and made more clear following feedback from teachers. The guidance had been removed and placed into a separate document.

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) - 15 MAY 2018 - MINUTES

Regarding the remaining actions, Alison noted that the invitations to the launch event had already been dispatched.

David Taylor tabled the wording he intended to use as the foreword for the document. The Committee commended and approved the foreword.

Bernard Eggleton queried the use of vocabulary such as 'holistic' and 'experiential' and asked if these words were sufficiently clear. The Committee held a discussion and concluded that the vocabulary was used by teachers and therefore would be clear to them as the main audience of the document.

David Taylor enquired how the document would be printed and disseminated. Jo Reeves advised that the Committee could ask the Council's print room to print the document.

Action: Jo Reeves/ Jo Watt to organise printing of the final document.

David Taylor advised that he would like to provide paper copies of the syllabus at the launch event.

Mobasshir Mushtaq joined the meeting at 4.35pm.

62 Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus launch event

David Taylor advised that so far nine out of ten secondary schools and 46 teachers representing 31 of the District's 49 primary schools had accepted the invitation to the Syllabus launch event. The event would be held on Tuesday 3rd July 2018, 4.15pm – 5.30pm at Thatcham Baptist church. David Taylor asked that members of the Committee informed him if they planned to attend. He also stated that he would be grateful of any assistance that the Committee could offer to set up the venue on the day.

63 Budget for 2018/19 and action plan

David Taylor tabled an updated version of the SACRE budget for 2018/19.

Following discussions with the hub at Wokingham, it had been agreed to continue making a contribution. Albeit reduced from the budget included in the agenda. It had also been determined that it would not be a priority to hold a conference so the budget line would be removed.

David Taylor asked the Committee whether, when the syllabus was refreshed again in 2023, they should consider asking the local authority for an enhanced budget or if the Committee should attempt to carry over savings in preparation. Alison Harris advised that the funding landscape might be different in five years' time and suggested that the Committee continue to spend their allocated budget as intended.

Robin Sharples suggested that the Committee write to the local authority on the subject.

Action: Alison Harris to include a letter in the action plan.

Alison Harris informed the Committee that at the syllabus launch event, she would appeal to schools to host the RE network meetings and find out from teachers what they would like from the meetings.

64 Ramadan briefing paper - Mobasshir Mushtaq

The Committee thanked Mobasshir Mushtaq for the helpful briefing paper regarding Ramadan. Mobasshir advised that he would like to make some final amendments to the formatting of the document in advance of it being circulated to schools.

Action: Mobasshir Mushtaq to send a final version of the briefing paper to Jo Watt to circulate to all headteachers.

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Alison Harris asked to share the document with Wokingham as headteachers in that area would also find the document helpful.

Keith Harvey noted that his school would be taking a residential trip during Ramadan and the document would assist him to understand the needs of a Muslim pupil.

65 Any Other Business

Bernard Eggleton reported that he had been concerned to read an article in the i newspaper regarding parents withdrawing their children from RE only when Islam was being taught. Robin Sharples noted that under the legislation parents were able to pick and choose in what RE their children participated.

Alison Harris noted that a motion had been put to the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) conference that it would be impossible for schools to fulfil their responsibilities under the Prevent strategy if they were not able to teach all children Islam.

David Taylor invited Mobasshir Mushtaq to give a sense of the feeling in the Muslim community, in the light of the refusal of planning permission for a new mosque and the recent incident in Tilehurst. Mobasshir advised that they were disappointed to be refused planning permission and would try again.

David Taylor asked whether the Committee had ever looked into whether there was a Jewish community in West Berkshire. Mary Harwood advised that she had asked the Rabbi in Reading but they were unaware of any families in the area.

66 Date of Next Meeting

The Committee set the date of the next meeting as 6th November 2018, 4.15pm at St Nicolas' Primary School.

(Post meeting note: the next meeting would now take place 4.30pm at Thatcham Baptist Church)

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AGREED SYLLABUS LAUNCH 3 JULY 2018

Attendees in bold

SCHOOL	Name	Role	Email
SECONDARY (6/11)	8		
Kennet (acad)	Evie Forsey	HoD	eforsey@kennetschool.co.uk
Little Heath	Clare Nolan	RE	cnolan@littleheath.org.uk
	Pete Bennett	GCSE Lead	pbennett@littleheath.org.uk
Park House (acad)	Kate Robinson-Slater	DHT	
St Bart's (acad)	Winnie Oluoch	HoD	WOluoch@stbarts.co.uk
The Castle SEN, Newbury	Amy Murray	RE Coord	amurray@castle.w-berks.sch.uk
The Willink	Katie Friend	HoD	kfriend@willink.w-berks.sch.uk
	Eve Mace	acting HoD	emace@willink.w-berks.sch.uk
PRIMARY (36/59)	52		
Aldermaston CE	Ally Burrige	RE Coord	headteacher@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk
Beedon CE	Alison McDonald	Dir. of Primaries	office@beedon.w-berks.sch.uk
Birch Copse	Katy Seymour	RE Coord	KSeymour@birchcopse.w-berks.sch.uk
Bradfield CE	Natasha Howlett	RE Coord	office@bradfieldceprimary.co.uk
Brimpton CE	Carolyn Purchase	HT	headteacher@brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk
	Zoe Baker	RE Coord	
Bucklebury CE	Andy Higgs	HT	headteacher@bucklebury.w-berks.sch.uk
Burghfield St Mary's CE	Antony Gallagher	HT	headteacher@burghfield.w-berks.sch.uk
	Karen Carmichael	DHT	
	Jess Harwood	RE lead	
	Becky Roe	RE lead	
	Alison Leadbetter		
Calcot	Florence Rostron	HT	headteacher@c-jun.w-berks.sch.uk
	Stephanie Williams		
Chaddleworth St Andrews CE	Bridget Goodrich	HT	headteacher@csf.w-berks.sch.uk
Cold Ash CE	Carol Collis	RE Coord	ccollis@coldash.w-berks.sch.uk
Compton	Sharon Annetts	Ass Head	headteacher@compton.w-berks.sch.uk
Enborne CE	Rev Sue Webster	Governors	revdsuew@gmail.com

Englefield CE	Hilary Latimer	HT	headteacher@englefield.w-berks.sch.uk
Falkland	Sharon Skuse	RE Coord	sskuse@falkland.w-berks.sch.uk
Fir Tree, Newbury	Natasha Purcell		office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org
	Jo Whitford		office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org
Francis Baily, Thatcham	Helen Knox	RE Coord	hgreenhalgh@fb.w-berks.sch.uk
Garland, Burghfield Common	Emily Dawkins	HT	headteacher@garland.w-berks.sch.uk
Hermitage	Peta Collicott	HT	headteacher@hermitage.w-berks.sch.uk
Inkpen	Jane Kanisius	HT	headteacher@inkpen.w-berks.sch.uk
	Jane Obin	RE Coord	
Mortimer St John's	Anna Holmgren	RE Coord	GRook@msj.w-berks.sch.uk
Mortimer St Mary's	Sharon Masters	RE Coord	smasters@msm.w-berks.sch.uk
Parsons Down, Thatcham	Donna Shave	HT	DShave@pdp.w-berks.sch.uk
Robert Sandilands, Newbury	Libby Bucknell	HT	headteacher@sandilands.w-berks.sch.uk
Shaw-cum-Donnington CE	Vicky Murray	HT	headteacher@shaw.w-berks.sch.uk
	Amy Hynes	RE Coord	
Speenhamland, Newbury	Karen Osmond	DHT	kosmond@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org
	Andrea Waterfall	RE	
Springfield, Tilehurst	Sarah East	HT	headteacher@springfieldprimary.org
Spurcroft, Thatcham	Kate Flowerdew	HT	kflowerdew@spurcroft.w-berks.sch.uk
	Nic Carroll	RE coord	
St Nicolas, Newbury	Keith Harvey	HT, SACRE Advisers	headteacher@stnics.w-berks.sch.uk
Stockcross and Welford & Wickham	Katie Dickens	HT	office@welford.w-berks.sch.uk
	Brenda Hooper		office@welford.w-berks.sch.uk
Streatley CE VA	Katherine Williams		KWilliams@sps.w-berks.sch.uk
Sulhamstead & Ufton Nervet CE VA			
	Sian Webb		soffice@sun.w-berks.sch.uk
Thatcham Park	Hannah Champion	DHT	hcampion@thatchampark.w-berks.sch.uk
	Penny Judge	RE coord	pjudge@thatchampark.w-berks.sch.uk
The Willows	Laura Waldeck	DHT	toffice@willows.w-berks.sch.uk
	Mike Steer		
Theale CE	Catherine Morley	HT	headteacher@theale.w-berks.sch.uk
	Rebecca Clifford	Governor	
	Jon Houghton	Governor	
Westwood Farm, Tilehurst	Erin Johns	RE Coord	DFinn@westwoodfarmschools.w-berks.sch.uk

	Becky Stone	RE Coord	DFinn@westwoodfarmschools.w-berks.sch.uk
Woolhampton	ANO		headteacher@woolhampton.school.org
ORGANISERS	3		
	Alison Harris	Adviser	alison@janlevereducationconsultancy.com
	Robin Sharples	CofE	robin.sharples@oxford.anglican.org
	David Taylor	Chair, Other Faiths	david@thatchambaptist.org.uk
GUESTS	9		
Christian Outreach In Newbury Schools (COINS)	Tania Wolak		tania.wolak@gmail.com
	Emma Garrett		emmatefl@hotmail.co.uk
Bridge Church Newbury	Mark Landreth-Smith		
Orison	Marilyn Britt		mjbritt789@btinternet.com
	Jeff Britt		
	Karen Frost		kafrost@hotmail.co.uk
CATERING & SUPPORT	6		
Thatcham Baptist Church	John Froggatt		froggatts@aol.com
	Barbara Froggatt		froggatts@aol.com
	Jean Andrews		jean.andrews@3gaab.org.uk
	John Andrews		
	Christa McCormick		
	Gill Taylor		gill@familytaylor.co.uk
TOTAL ATTENDEES	78		

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Agenda Item 8

Proposed Revised SACRE Budget 2018-9

Item	Provider	Service Provided	Cost (£)
1	Wokingham Council	Contribution to SACRE Berkshire Hub	900
2	St Nicolas Primary School	LA link - Keith Harvey	650
3	Jan Lever Education Consultancy & Training (JLECT)	Consultancy at 3 SACRE meetings @ £500 each (Alison Harris)	1500
4	JLECT	Attendance, Presentation and Consultancy at Syllabus Launch (Alison Harris)	250
5	JLECT	2 Primary Network Meetings (Alison Harris)	500
6	JLECT	2 Secondary Network Meetings (ANO)	500
7	JLECT	Contribution towards Alison Harris' attendance at Berkshire Hub meetings and syllabus review meetings	250
8	Various	Printing of agreed syllabus & other consumables	290
	TOTAL		4840

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Agenda Item 9

Notes from Visits to Secondary RE depts, Summer 2018

Denefield

Fiona Murray hasn't been available for a visit yet but hoping for after half term

John O'Gaunt

Dan Holley hasn't been available for a visit yet. Sent reminder email on 5 Oct.

Kennet

Evie Forsey, Head of RS (currently on maternity). 3 or 4 other specialists including 2 new teachers. Well resourced dept. All do GCSE.

Little Heath

Joe Eden, Head of RS. 3 other specialists. Vibrant dept, well resourced. Good numbers doing GCSE.

Park House

Rebekah Dee (English dept) will continue to coordinate "Character & Values". In August Mark Landreth-Smith and I attended a meeting chaired by headteacher Derek Peale with several staff at which they welcomed our provision of some RS materials to support their own material. The current head of Health & Social Care will assume responsibility for the subject from Sep 19. We are planning a Year 12 RS Day (combined with St Gabriel's) in Feb 19 which is a good sign. However the overall situation remains a cause of concern.

St Bart's

Winnie Oluoch, Head of RS, and one other specialist. Solid dept, all doing GCSE.

Theale Green

Julie Webber, Head of RS and the only RS teacher. DT visited again in Oct and also met Head of 6th form with a view to RS input into 6th form enrichment.

The Downs

Louise Hewett, Head of RS. One other specialist. Vibrant dept, well resourced. Good numbers doing GCSE. Interest in an RS component into 6th form enrichment.

Trinity

Sadie Broad, Head of RS, trained as a Geography specialist but has taught RS at Trinity for years and passionate about it. Other teachers all non-specialists. Part of Hum dept, and rather under-resourced. Head of Hum seems supportive though. All have done GCSE up to now. Now going into options system.

Willink

Katie Friend, Head of RS (currently on maternity) is RS specialist and also head of PSHE. Eve Mace, now acting Head of RS, is History specialist. A third teacher is also History specialist. GCSE Yrs 9-11.

All schools seem open to greater contact with faith communities. Much easier for visitors to come into school rather than classes going off the premises.

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Approved List of Speakers for GCSE and 6th Form Days

This is the start of what I hope will be a growing list that we can all add to. It's overwhelmingly male at the moment. All speakers can be contacted through me in the first instance, though obviously this will change as the list grows.

Speaker	Organisation	Topic	Credentials	Confirmed as available?
Rev. Richard Littledale	Newbury Baptist Church	Faith in Broadcasting	Regularly presents on BBC Radio	Yes
Rev. David Potter MBE	Founder of <i>Prospects</i>	Disability Bereavement	Founded the charity <i>Prospects</i> with his wife after their first child was born with Downs.	Yes
Bethany Hare	Home For Good	Adoption & Fostering	Project Worker in Berkshire	Yes
Luke Radford	Dept of Transport, Newbury Baptist Church	Artificial Intelligence	Works in this area at the D of T	Yes
David Slack BEM	Yattendon Estates, Newbury Baptist Church	Green Issues	Not sure but I've told he's great!	Yes
Ian Haworth	Cult Information Centre	Information and advice on dangerous cults	Ex-cult member with over 30 years' experience of speaking on this topic	Yes
Jason Collis	W Berks & Thatcham Councils, Thatcham Baptist Church	Faith in Politics	Chairman of Thatcham Town Council, member of Conservative Christian Fellowship	
Mark Hurd	Thatcham Baptist Church	Does God Change Lives?	Ex-convict now part of a church	
Buddhist teacher	Kadampa Buddhist Meditation Centre, Reading	Buddhism in general	Local Buddhist teaching centre	Yes
Rev. David Taylor	Thatcham Baptist Church W Berks SACRE	Can prepare on quite a wide range with enough notice!	Local Pastor ex-Head of RS	Yes
Shahzad Nadeem	Newbury Mosque Peace & Integration Forum	Range of topics related to Islam and religion in general	Has given similar talks in Kennet School	Yes
Rev Hedley Clemo	Thatcham Evangelical Church	Christian beliefs in general	Works with Kennet Radio and can organise broadcasts if wanted	Yes
various	Christian Aid	Fairtrade, Trading Game etc.	National aid agency	Yes
various	Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics (OCCA)	A wide range	National organisation	Yes

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Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Reverend David Taylor
Chair, West Berkshire SACRE
Thatcham Baptist Church
Wheelers Green Way, Thatcham
Berkshire
RG19 4YF

26 July 2018

Dear Reverend Taylor,

Thank you for your letter of 13 July, addressed to the Secretary of State, regarding religious education. I am replying as the Minister of State for School Standards.

As you are aware, religious education is compulsory for all pupils, including those in sixth form. While we would prefer schools to deliver religious education of their own accord, the Secretary of State has powers to intervene where a school is not meeting its statutory duty. However, I would suggest that the local authority or the SACRE first contacts those schools not complying with the locally agreed syllabus to remind them of their legal duty, and asks for confirmation that these schools have taken action to meet it.

If this is unsuccessful, a complaint could then be referred to the Secretary of State, giving details of what the agreed syllabus requires of the school, all communications with the school regarding this issue, and the school's response. Please send any such complaint, marked for the attention of Neil Lawson, to: curriculumsupport.team@education.gov.uk.

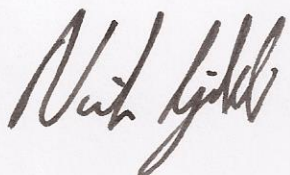
The religious studies A level attracts UCAS points for those students who take it. Although the subject of religious education has compulsory status, there are reasons why it might not be practicable for it to attract UCAS points in its own right. For example, as each local authority area has its own agreed religious education syllabus, these may impose different requirements on schools, making it difficult to determine how many points to award.

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In addition, UCAS points are awarded for grades achieved, rather than on the basis of having been taught for the specified number of hours. However, UCAS is an independent organisation, and this is ultimately a matter for it to decide.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicky Field'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'N'.

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Annual SACRE Report 2017-2018

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 – Moira Fraser: Moira.Fraser@westberks.gov.uk

Adviser - Alison Harris: alison@jlect.co.uk

Local Authority Officer - Keith Harvey: headteacher@stnics.w-berks.sch.uk

Membership

Revd Mary Harwood stood down as chair in November 2017 after ??? years' service. Revd David Taylor was elected as the new Chair. Bernard Eggleton was re-elected as Vice Chair. Keith Harvey (Head Teacher at St Nicolas Church of England Junior School, Newbury) has continued to serve as Local Authority Officer and Alison Harris has continued as Adviser from Jan Lever Education Consultancy and Training.

Two new members joined the committee during the year: Mr. Mobasshir Mushtaq (Group A) and Mrs Valerie Bolan (Group B). Clare Nolan (Group C) resigned from the committee as she could not get there on time, but has since indicated her willingness to return now that the meeting time is slightly later. It is extremely valuable to have serving teachers on SACRE, and we are still seeking a representative from amongst our 59 Primary Schools. Mark Landreth-Smith from The Bridge Church attended two meetings as an observer.

At the end of the year Jo Watt moved on from her position at the Council. We expressed our grateful thanks to Jo for the tremendous quality and quantity of support she had given us during her time as Clerk and wished her well for the future.

Meetings

Three meetings were held during the year: 7 November, 6 February and 15 May. Thanks go to St Nicolas' School in Newbury and Head Teacher Keith Harvey for hosting 2 of these meetings, with the 3rd being held at West Berkshire Council.

In November we agreed to amend the definition of our quorum to "a minimum of 6 members (including at least one Advisor), representing at least 3 of our 4 membership groups." This seems to have solved the issue of meetings being inquorate.

New Syllabus

Much of our activity this year was connected with the preparation of the Pan-Berkshire RE Syllabus 2018-2023 and our event to launch this in W Berks, which took place at Thatcham Baptist Church on 3 July. This was attended by nearly 80 people including 60 teachers and 9 representatives of local interested organisations. Alison Harris guided teachers through the main points of the new syllabus, David Taylor was able to gather secondary colleagues together for their own discussion, and there was much useful informal networking.

Although still in its early days, the new Syllabus seems to have been received warmly by teachers. Broadly, teachers had called for as little change as possible. Accordingly the new document is much like the old one in terms of subject content, though considerably slimmed down for the sake of clarity. The main changes are as follows:

- The boundary between KS1 and KS2 has been removed allowing teachers more flexibility. The inclusion of Islam at Primary level seems to have been happening in many schools already.
- KS3 is now to include a non-religious worldview such as Humanism since this is now the air most young people breathe in their day-to-day lives.

- There is a strong recommendation that all pupils should have access to RS at GCSE level. In 2018, of our 10 mainstream secondary schools, 5 offered GCSE to all, 4 offered it as an option, and one did not offer it at all. Detailed GCSE results are listed below.
- At post-16 we now recommend 10 hours per year rather than 6. We realise that this is an issue we need to address as most schools seem to be completely failing in this area.

Other Actions and Budget

With several new members joining the committee this year, we took time to revisit our core purposes. In the light of this we made efforts to allocate our budget for 2018-19 somewhat differently, in order to support teachers more. In particular we wanted to release funds for an Advisor to attend teachers' network meetings, especially as they get to grips with the new Syllabus. We did this by reducing our contribution to the Berkshire Hub (in line with the other Berkshire SACREs), and writing our own Annual Report. There was no SACRE conference in 2018-19 so this was also removed from the budget.

Other items discussed during the year included the *Crossing the Bridges* project, RE trails, and support for pupils fasting for Ramadan during exams.

David Taylor used a sabbatical from his day job to visit secondary RE teachers across the district in their departments. We hope this will lead to a stronger relationship and better communication between the schools and SACRE. He provided them with a list of potential speakers from local faith communities willing to visit schools to give talks on a range of subjects connected with RE, and some of these have started to be used.

Most teachers were clearly doing a fine job. However one focus of concern was Park House School in Newbury where RS is not currently being adequately provided. David Taylor and Mark Landreth-Smith met with the Headteacher and other colleagues in August to discuss this situation, which we hope will improve next year.

The Hub

SACRE Chairs and professional advisers to the SACREs continued to meet to discuss work undertaken at hub level. The leadership of the hub recently passed from Jan Lever to Anne Andrews (Oxford Diocese) and David Rees (Reading Advisor).

The SACRE continues to be a member of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) to ensure members remain well informed about national debates relating to RE.

General interest

In addition to the above aspects of the SACRE's most significant work, members engaged in fruitful discussions about a range of topics, including consideration of published national documents regarding the provision of RE across the UK plus items of local consideration.

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 2018 there were 1010 entries for GCSE Religious Studies. There was a 99% pass rate, with 69% achieving grade 4 or above, as compared to 71.8% nationally. This represents an improvement on last year's performance.

There were 19 entries for A level Religious Studies: There was a 100% pass rate, with 74% achieving grade C or above.

Membership of West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 2017-2018

Representing	Member	Meetings attended
Group A	Christian denominations and other religions	
	Mr. Mobasshir Mushtaq	2
	Revd David Taylor	3
Group B	The Church of England	
	Ms Anne Andrews (for Robin Sharples)	1
	Mrs Valerie Bolan	2
	Revd Mary Harwood	2
	Mr Robin Sharples	1
Group C	Associations representing teachers	
	Mr B Eggleton	3
	Ms Clare Nolan	1
Group D	The Local Authority	
	Councillor Pamela Bale	3
	Councillor Billy Drummond	1
	Councillor Sheila Ellison	1
	Councillor Carol Jackson-Doerge	1
Clerk	Jo Watt	2
	Jo Reeves	1
Professional Adviser	Alison Harris	3
Officer	Keith Harvey	2