

Notice of Meeting

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Wednesday, 6th March, 2019 at 4.15 pm
in Thatcham Baptist Church, Wheelers
Green Way, Thatcham, RG19 4YF

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Janet Giddings on 01635 519644
e-mail: janet.giddings@westberks.gov.uk



**Agenda - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to be held on Wednesday, 6
March 2019 (continued)**

To: Group A - Other Faiths Members:

Mrs Lucy Gallagher (Catholic)

Group B – Church of England Members:

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), Mrs Val Bolan (C of E), Councillor Billy Drummond (WBC), Councillor Sheila Ellison (WBC), Councillor Carol Jackson-Doerge (WBC) and Revd David Taylor (Thatcham Baptist Church)

LA Advisors:

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

Guests:

Agenda

	Page No.
1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	
2 Membership	
2.1 Group Members: Maria Pratico	
2.2 Advisors: Rachel Manley, David Rees	
3 Minutes	5 - 10
To sign and approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of SACRE held on 6 November 2018.	
4 Actions (not covered elsewhere)	
4.1 Email list for Primary Network: Janet Giddings to confirm	
4.2 <i>Crossing the Bridges</i> representative needed	
4.3 Communications representative: Janet Giddings available?	
5 Matters arising from the Minutes (not covered elsewhere)	
6 Schools	11 - 12



Agenda - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to be held on Wednesday, 6 March 2019 (continued)

- 6.1 Primary Network 6th February 2019 and future dates
 - 6.2 Park House: Year 12 Conference 27th February 2019, general situation
 - 6.3 Kennet: Faith Forum Autumn 2019
 - 6.4 Secondary Network 14th March 2019, 16:00 at St Bartholomew's School
 - 6.5 Ramadan and exam period
 - 6.6 Other news
- 7 **2019-20 Action Plan & Budget (April 2019 - March 2020)** 13 - 16
- 7.1 Any changes needed?
 - 7.2 Secondary networks: offer from David Rees to combine with Reading
- 8 **Hub** 17 - 22
- 8.1 Someone needed to check directory entries for our LA area and gather new ones – Janet Giddings as above?
 - 8.2 Westhill bid (see separate paper) to approve
 - 8.3 Should the hub continue if the Westhill bid is not successful?
 - 8.4 Do we want an Autumn conference?
 - 8.5 W Berks SACRE newsletter: would need someone to produce it
- 9 **Update from Commission on RE**
- 10 **Any Other Business**
- 11 **Date of Next Meeting**
The next meeting will be held on 11th June 2019 at Theale Green School (time to be confirmed)
Collective Worship:
Invite Sue Ball (has replaced Robin Sharples) and Sian Lupton (COINS)?

Sarah Clarke
Head of Legal and Strategic Support

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WEST BERKSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2018 VENUE: THATCHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Present:

Group A – Other Faiths Members

Penny Judge (Thatcham Baptist Church) and Revd David Taylor (Thatcham Baptist Church)

Group B – Church of England Members

Val Bolan, Revd Mary Harwood and Mary Stagg

Group D – WBC Councillors

Councillor Sheila Ellison (WBC)

Also Present: Stephen Chard (Principal Policy Officer), Alison Harris (Independent Consultant) and Keith Harvey (Head Teacher)

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Councillor Pamela Bale (WBC), Councillor Billy Drummond (WBC), Mr Bernard Eggleton (NASUWT) and Ms Clare Nolan (NASUWT)

1 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman 2018/19

RESOLVED that Reverend David Taylor be elected as Chairman of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for the 2018/19 Academic Year.

RESOLVED that Bernard Eggleton be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for the 2018/19 Academic Year.

David Taylor drew attention to a recent positive ATL article in relation to the teaching of Religious Education (RE) in schools. It recognised the importance of retaining RE as a school subject and made a case for Religion and Worldviews to be taught.

2 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2018 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to noting that Keith Harvey was present at the meeting.

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Ramadan Briefing Paper – it was noted that a discussion would be scheduled for the next meeting in relation to the fact that Ramadan coincided with the dates for sitting exams.

Action: agenda item for the next meeting on 6 March 2019.

4 Update on Membership (David Taylor)

SACRE noted the following membership changes:

- Mary Stagg appointed as a Church of England representative. David Taylor commented that Mrs Stagg provided a primary school perspective.
- Alison Harris announced that the Jan Lever Education Consultancy and Training (JLECT) contract would not be renewed for the SACREs in Berkshire. Alison would therefore be stepping down from her role as Independent Consultant to West

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Berkshire SACRE. However, David Rees, who already supported Reading's SACRE, was willing to take over this role and both Alison and David would attend the next meeting as part of their handover.

- Keith Harvey explained that he was seeking a replacement for himself as Headteacher representative and was liaising with Rachel Manley, Headteacher of Yattendon CE Primary School. Rachel was very knowledgeable of RE and interested in taking on this role. Keith would advise on this if/when confirmed and would ensure a full handover was provided.
- Mary Harwood announced that this would be her last West Berkshire SACRE meeting before she retired in December. She had spoken to the Reverend Mark Bennet to ensure a replacement representative was appointed.

Reverend Taylor, together with all SACRE members present, took the opportunity to give thanks to Mary for all her hard work with West Berkshire's SACRE over the past nine years. He would make contact with Reverend Bennett to confirm her replacement.

Actions:

- **Keith Harvey to advise on any change to the Headteacher representative on SACRE.**
- **Reverend Taylor to make contact with Reverend Bennet to confirm a replacement representative for the Church of England Diocese.**

5 Review of the Agreed Syllabus Launch on 03 July 2018 (Alison Harris)

Alison Harris provided an update following the syllabus launch on 3 July 2018. This was a successful event with much positive feedback received from the teachers present. Approximately 70 representatives were in attendance. The majority of schools already used Discovery RE.

Keith Harvey agreed it was a well received event.

David Taylor thanked all involved for their efforts in the syllabus launch.

6 Network Meetings (Alison Harris and David Taylor)

Primary RE Network

Alison Harris advised that the latest Primary Network meeting was attended by 16 representatives. Those present had a varying range of expertise and the meeting afforded a useful opportunity for colleagues to share knowledge and ideas, and work through key questions highlighted by the syllabus. Further meeting dates would be confirmed.

Penny Judge agreed this was a useful informal meeting.

David Taylor was pleased to see that this work had got started.

Keith Harvey asked that the e-mail circulation list for these meetings be confirmed to ensure all representatives were aware of these meeting dates. Stephen Chard would check this point, he believed that the Primary Headteachers circulation list would have been used.

(Keith Harvey left the meeting at 4.45pm).

Secondary RE Network

David Taylor stated that this was an area requiring further work to ensure a fuller representation of secondary schools. Only Trinity, Little Heath and St Bartholomew's Schools were in attendance at the last meeting.

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Action: Stephen Chard to confirm the e-mail circulation list for the Primary RE Network.

7 **Update on Budget and Action Plan (Alison Harris)**

Alison Harris presented the revised SACRE budget for 2018/19. The 2018/19 budget was fully allocated and allowed for two Primary and two Secondary Network meetings.

A proposed SACRE budget and action plan was then tabled for 2019/20. It was assumed that the 2019/20 budget would be in line with the 2018/19 sum, i.e. £4,840, although it was proposed to be allocated differently for some services.

David Taylor queried when this sum would be finalised. Stephen Chard explained that ultimately, the Council's budget for 2019/20 was scheduled to be signed off in March 2019, however that was the end of a lengthy approval process. Stephen would confirm the process and deadline dates.

SACRE then worked through the proposed 2019/20 action plan and associated budget requirements.

A. Core Business: Collective Worship

SACRE felt that greater consistency needed to be established on this point and agreed it was important to invite someone from COINS (Christian Outreach in Newbury Schools) to provide a presentation about good practice in collective worship (on the action plan for the 2019 Summer Term).

Mary Harwood felt that Robin Sharples would be a useful link for this work.

B. Core Business: Religious Education

Termly primary and secondary network meetings proposed in the action plan. However, only a single secondary network meeting was in the proposed budget and £300 was allocated towards this meeting (an increase from £250 per meeting in 2018/19). The potential to hold a second meeting would be explored within the existing budget.

C. SACRE Internal

Activity included: filling membership vacancies; attendance at SACRE meetings and network meetings; and production of annual report.

D. Pan-Berkshire Hub

Contribution to the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub noted.

It was proposed that £105 be budgeted for the NASACRE membership fee. However, attendance at the NASACRE conference could not be afforded.

David Taylor highlighted that £250 was proposed to help meet the cost of travel expenses for SACRE members visiting schools. He felt that teachers needed assistance with implementing the RE syllabus and he proposed that SACRE members/other key contacts make contact with schools, particularly non-faith schools, to offer this assistance. David Taylor felt that this was an important part of the role of SACRE, but acknowledged that finding the time to do so could be a limiting factor.

Alison Harris explained that guidance would continue to be provided to subject leaders at network meetings. She also felt it would be a useful approach for an interested school to host a future SACRE meeting. This would help to form linkages and enable greater engagement with that particular school. Theale Green School and The Willink School were suggested.

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Actions:

- SACRE agreed the 2019/20 outline budget for submitting to West Berkshire Council for approval.
- Stephen Chard to confirm the process and deadline dates for signing off the 2019/20 SACRE budget.
- David Taylor to explore whether the budget envelope could be revised to accommodate two secondary network meetings in 2019/20.

8 Notes from Summer Visits to Schools (David Taylor)

SACRE noted the report produced following visits made to Secondary School RE departments during the Summer of 2018. All secondary schools with the exception of Denefield and John O'Gaunt had been visited.

9 Sixth Form Provision (David Taylor)

SACRE noted the approved list of speakers for GCSE and sixth form days.

David Taylor referred to the letter that had been received from the Minister of State for School Standards in response to his letter relating to gaining greater support for the teaching of RE in secondary schools. The Minister confirmed that RE was compulsory for all pupils, including those in sixth form. The letter suggested that SACRE could, in the first instance, make contact with any schools who were not complying with the locally agreed syllabus to remind them of their legal duty and ask for confirmation that the schools had taken action to meet it.

This linked to the specialist input that had been highlighted as a need at Park House School. As a result, a Year 12 RE Day was being planned for February 2019.

SACRE members gave thanks to David Taylor for taking this forward with the Minister which helped to achieve the above action for Park House.

10 Annual Report (David Taylor)

David Taylor presented the draft Annual SACRE Report 2017/18, which was approved subject to the following amendments:

Membership – first paragraph, first sentence: Revd Mary Harwood stood down as chair in November 2017 after **seven** years' service.

The Hub – second paragraph to be removed as SACRE was not a member of NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs) in 2017/18.

Action: the report, subject to making these amendments, would be published on the Council's website.

11 Updates from Hub and JLECT (Alison Harris)

Alison Harris provided an update from the Hub and JLECT. The Hub syllabus was launched in 2017/18.

She explained that, as noted in the annual report, Jan Lever (JLECT) had stood down as Chair of the Hub. David Rees (Independent Consultant) and Anne Andrews (Oxford Diocese) would replace Jan as joint chairs of the Hub.

A focus for the Hub was to raise the profile of the Discovery RE tool 'Crossing the Bridges'. A key purpose of which was to help establish links with places of worship in relation to taking children to visit them or to invite speakers into RE lessons. Linked to this, Anne would be inviting teachers to join a teacher focus group to encourage teacher engagement. It would also be a focus of network meetings.

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SACREs were being encouraged to nominate a member to be the link person for 'Crossing the Bridges' and a communications representative. Volunteers were sought.

(Councillor Sheila Ellison left the meeting at 5.25pm).

Penny Judge commented that the scope for rolling out 'Crossing the Bridges' was limited in West Berkshire. There was greater potential for visits to different places of worship in Reading and Maidenhead, but such visits would incur some costs, i.e. travel expenses.

Mary Harwood suggested that funding bids could be submitted to the Newbury and Thatcham Trust to help subsidise costs. The potential to do so should be highlighted with eligible schools. She would also highlight this with Reverend Mark Bennet at the next Diocesan meeting.

The deadline for nominating a 'Crossing the Bridges' representative was 13 April 2018. A decision would therefore be made at the next meeting.

In terms of the communications representative, this person would be responsible for tasks including circulating information and maintaining the website. This was a task previously undertaken by Jo Watt, therefore Stephen Chard would discuss this requirement with her successor Janet Giddings.

Actions:

- **A 'Crossing the Bridges' representative would be appointed at the next SACRE meeting.**
- **Stephen Chard would discuss with Janet Giddings the potential to fulfil the role of communications representative.**

12 Spring and Summer Term Meetings

Future SACRE meeting dates were confirmed as:

Wednesday 6 March 2019 at 4.15pm. David Taylor would explore whether the meeting could be held at Theale Green School. Alison Harris would invite David Rees to this meeting.

Tuesday 11 June 2019 at 4.15pm. Venue to be confirmed.

Primary RE Network meeting confirmed as:

Wednesday 6 February 2019, 4-5.30pm at Thatcham Baptist Church.

13 Any Other Business

None raised.

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West Berkshire SACRE action plan April 2019-March 2020

Aim	Actions	Timescales	People Responsible	Summer 2019	Autumn 2019	Spring 2020
A. CORE BUSINESS: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP	1. Invite someone from COINS (Christian Outreach in Newbury Schools) to bring us a presentation about good practice in collective worship	Summer Term 2019	SACRE Chair			
B. CORE BUSINESS: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	2. Provide a termly primary RE network meeting for West Berkshire teachers, 4.00-5.30pm, SACRE members welcome	Summer term 2019	Led by Adviser			
		Autumn term 2019				
		Spring term 2020				
	3. Support existing secondary RE network meeting and offer Adviser support.	Summer term 2019	SACRE Chair			
		Autumn term 2019				
4. Contact primary schools who do not attend networks, to arrange visits by SACRE members	Spring term 2020	SACRE members				
5. Continue to work with secondary schools not yet complying with the law, especially Park House School	ongoing		SACRE Chair			
C. SACRE INTERNAL	6. Fill membership	End of July 2019	SACRE Chair			

	vacancies		SACRE Clerk			
	7. SACRE members attend termly SACRE meetings (3 per year) and, when possible, teacher termly network meetings and training events e.g. annual SACRE conference	Termly SACRE meetings: Summer 2019: Autumn 2019 Spring 2020 Termly teacher network meetings	SACRE Chair/SACRE Adviser SACRE members SACRE Clerk			
	8. Produce annual SACRE Report	Autumn Term 2019	SACRE Chair and clerk		Bring draft to November 2019 meeting	Presented at March mtg and to Councillors on Date tbc
	9. Review the action plan at each meeting and update for next year	At each SACRE meeting	SACRE Adviser and SACRE Chair			
	10. ~Subscribe to NASACRE ~Representation at annual NASACRE conference, NASACRE AGM	Ongoing	NASACRE membership £95 currently, rising to £105. SACRE members SACRE Adviser to organise with other Berkshire RE advisers (To be confirmed for 19-20 year)			
D. Pan-Berkshire Hub	Contribute to the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub.		SACRE members SACRE adviser 6 Chair from all Berkshire SACREs			

Proposed SACRE Budget 2019-20

Item	Provider	Service Provided	Cost (£)
1	Wokingham Council	Contribution to SACRE Berkshire Hub	900
2	Yattendon Primary School	LA Adviser (Rachel Manley)	650
3	David Rees	Consultancy at 3 SACRE meetings @ £500 each (David Rees)	1500
4	David Rees	3 Primary Network Meetings @ £300 each (David Rees)	900
5	David Rees	1 Secondary Network Meeting @ £300 each (David Rees?)	300
6	David Rees	Travel Expenses (David Rees)	150
7	SACRE members	Travel Expenses (SACRE members visiting schools)	250
8	NASACRE	NASACRE Membership fee	105
9	W Berks Council	Consumables, printing etc	85
	TOTAL		4840 (= 2018-19 figure)

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West Berks SACRE: Renewing Our Vision 2018

Our Purpose

To advise West Berkshire Council on

- a) matters of collective worship
- b) Religious Education, in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus

Our Activities

- a) Produce the agreed syllabus (jointly with the other four Berkshire LAs)
- b) Encourage the development of material to support the implementation of the RE syllabus
- c) Support the provision of meetings for RE coordinators in primary schools and occasional RE conferences
- d) Provide a copy of the *Non-statutory guidance* on RE published by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and the DfE to each school in West Berkshire
- e) Receive presentations from teachers and members of faith communities on issues related to RE and collective worship
- f) Support and send representatives to the Pan Berkshire Hub
- g) Through the Pan Berkshire Hub, the West Berkshire SACRE is part of the Crossing the Bridges project
- h) Publish an annual report of its work

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WESTHILL/NASACRE Awards 2019-20
Application Form

Name of SACRE: Pan-Berkshire SACRE hub

SACRE Chair: Gareth Barnard (Bracknell), Stephen Vegh (Wokingham), Michael Freeman (Reading), Julie Siddiqi (Slough) David Taylor (West Berks), Michael Gammage (RBWM)

SACRE Clerk/Administrator & Contact Details

Which SACRE will take ownership here?

Project Manager/Co-ordinator & Contact Details

Anne Andrews and David Rees

Email contacts

Anne.andrews@oxford.anglican.org david.rees@janleveragegroup.com

Date of commencement of project _____ October 2019 _____
(This should not be earlier than September 2019.)

Estimated date of completion of project _____ September 2020 _____

Amount of Award applied for _____ £4000 _____

Name of Bank Account: _____

Date(s) when payment of the Award is requested:

First tranche _____ 1st October 2019 _____
(This should not be earlier than October 1st, 2019)

Second tranche _____ 1st April 2020 _____

Title and brief description of project.

Real People, Real Faith

Using the new Pan-Berkshire syllabus as a basis, we intend to take groups of teachers to places of worship and record interviews with the hosts answering key questions from the syllabus. These short interviews will then be used by teachers to create lesson activities and units. This will enable students in class to engage with the syllabus questions directly, hearing first hand responses to the same questions from a range of believers.

I hereby apply for a SACRE Award for 2019-20, as set out above.

I agree to keep NASACRE informed of the progress of the project, and in particular to furnish NASACRE with at least one written interim report, and a final written evaluation report, including a summary of expenditure and income, for the whole project. (The material posted on the Westhill website may form part of this.)

If the project produces significant teaching aids or other materials, I agree to make these available to NASACRE and other SACREs, subject to suitable arrangements being made to take into account any costs and copyright issues.

Signed (by SACRE Chair)

Date:

NB The Chair's signature may be scanned in electronically if such a facility exists within the Local Authority. Failing this, the application should be submitted electronically anyway, and also a hard copy of this form with signature should be posted by surface mail to the Awards Panel Convenor.

To be submitted by 31st March 2019 to:

**NASACRE
Awards Panel Convenor
196 Stone Road
Stafford
ST16 1NT**

Email: treasurer@nasacre.org.uk

Project Idea: **Real People, Real Faith**

Summary:

This is a Pan-Berkshire hub initiative involving teachers from schools of all types across the 6 local authority areas in visits to local places of worship where a series of short interviews will be recorded with the faith leaders and other representatives. The focus of these interviews will be the key questions from the revised locally agreed syllabus for RE, which is shared by all 6 SACRES.

These recorded interviews will be hosted on a shared webspace, accessible to all the local schools and ultimately nationally as well. Notes and sample lesson plans and activities will be provided. These short interviews will then be used in class, and by teachers to produce further lesson plans and activities.

Using local places of worship, making local faith adherents into minor TV stars, will break down some of the obstacles that make teachers resistant to organising trips. Where trips are not possible these interviews and resources will provide a local element to the online material.

Interviews focused specifically on the content of the locally agreed syllabus will enable teachers to increase their subject knowledge and help the leaders and members of faith communities to better understand the requirements of the syllabus.

Focusing across the whole of the Berkshire area will be of particular benefit to the areas where there is little diversity either within or between faiths.

Background

The 6 Berkshire SACREs have collaborated for many years, producing joint syllabus in 2018, 2012 and 2007. The SACRE hub (comprising the chairs, vice-chairs and other volunteers) has engaged in a previous project, creating a directory of places of worship across the area, templates for booking visits and visitors and work books for students. These resources, collectively called Crossing the Bridges are enabling teachers to be more focused when organising visits.

There are however some areas of the region that have little access to the diversity of religious experience that is possible in Slough, Maidenhead or Reading, so the hub has been particularly concerned to facilitate dialogue and encounter between schools and a range of faiths. Schools report that cost issues are a major factor in deterring the arranging of trips. One of the SACREs spent a year trying to find funding for schools to make trips possible. No financial support was found, so this project will provide alternative opportunities for encounters with a range of faiths.

We are applying for a Westhill NASACRE award for this project as we would like to:

- Organise two days of teacher visits (one in the Slough/Maidenhead area, one in the Reading/Wokingham area) to 4 or 5 places of worship (across a range of faiths) where the interviews will be held and filmed. If possible, 6th formers engaged in media studies and RE would be involved in the filming and editing of the interviews
- Organise a one day session (or possibly two half days) to use the films to produce some lesson plans and notes with teachers from each of KS1 – 3
- Put the films (edited where necessary) on a centralised website, along with the notes and lesson plans, so that all teachers across the area (and nationally) can access them.

We believe that this project will

- Increase the subject knowledge of the teachers as they will have access to diverse responses to the same questions. This should increase their confidence when teaching about the diversity between and within religions.
- Inform faith communities about the requirements of the locally agreed syllabus, which will enable them to engage more productively when schools and students visit.
- Produce films with a local flavour, showing real people in local venues, increasing awareness of the diversity of the local area and breaking down stereotypes.
- Create a sense of familiarity with a range of local places of worship that will encourage visits. Being able to see the people that they may encounter, in the place where they will meet them will reduce the anxiety that some may feel when entering a new place of worship
- Provide a long lasting resource that will be used in classrooms. The films could also be used to educate parents about what their children may experience if they go on a visit and will increase their knowledge of RE and religions as well.
- Encourage teachers and students to ask similar questions when they encounter people of faith. It will demonstrate real dialogue in action, with questions, ideas and concepts that are familiar to the pupils
- Bring teachers and faith leaders together in an atmosphere of dialogue, giving them an opportunity to reflect on the answers that they hear and to ask further questions
- Enable SACRE members to join the trips and work alongside teachers. They will gain a better understanding of the issues facing schools and teachers.

How the Money will be allocated:

Cost for coach hire for 2 days: £1500 (approx.) This will enable teachers to attend free of charge.

Cost of recording, editing etc: £800

Cost of venue for writing day - £500 to include refreshments

Cost of supply for teachers for the writing day: min £600; max £1200 (ideally 6 teachers – 2 per key stage 1 -3)

Total: £4000

SACRE hub will contribute a further £2000 to cover adviser time to facilitate the visits, co-ordinate and supervise the writing project and administer the whole process, including evaluation and dissemination of the finished materials.