

# Notice of Meeting

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## **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

**Tuesday 3rd November 2020 at 4.15pm**  
Due to Covid-19 this meeting will be held  
online as a Webinar

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  
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**Agenda - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to be held on Tuesday, 3 November 2020 (continued)**

**To: Group A - Other Faiths Members:**

Mobasshir Mushtaq (Muslim), Rabbi Zvi Solomons (Jewish) and Revd David Taylor (Thatcham Baptist Church)

**Group B – Church of England Members:**

Val Bolan (Church of England), Maria Pratico (Church of England), Robin Sharples (Church of England) and Mary Stagg (Church of England)

**Group C – Teaching Association Members:**

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

**Group D – WBC Councillors:**

Councillor Peter Argyle, Councillor Billy Drummond (WBC), Councillor Tony Linden and Councillor David Marsh

**LA Advisors:** Rachel Manley, David Rees

**Guests:** Donna Fox, Principal Adviser for School Improvement

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# Agenda

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2 <b>Membership</b>	
2.1 Amanda Bedding and Chris Ward (Group C)	
2.2 Other possibilities	
3 <b>Election of Chair &amp; Vice Chair for academic year 2020/21</b>	
4 <b>Minutes of last two meetings</b>	5 - 14
To sign and approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings of SACRE held on the 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 and 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2020.	



**Agenda - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to be held on Tuesday, 3  
November 2020 (continued)**

- 5 **Matters arising from the Minutes and Actions (not covered elsewhere)**
- 6 **Schools**
  - 6.1 Recovery Support: updates on use of extra funding – **Clare Hawkins**
  - 6.2 West Berks RE exam results – **Janet Giddings**
  - 6.3 Primary Schools/Network – **David Rees**
  - 6.4 Secondary Schools/Network – **David Taylor**
  - 6.5 Newsletter – **David Rees**
  - 6.6 Approach to Tom Goodenough
- 7 **Annual Report - David Taylor**
- 8 **2020-21 Budget and Action Plan Update - David Rees**
- 9 **Hub**
  - 9.1 *Real People, Real Faith* Video Project update – **David Rees**
- 10 **Questions from Students? - Clare Hawkins**
- 11 **Date of Next Meeting**
  - 11.1 Tues 23 February 2021?
  - 11.2 Tues 18 May 2021?
- 12 **Any Other Business**

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, 25 FEBRUARY 2020**

**VENUE: COMMITTEE ROOM COUNCIL OFFICES MARKET STREET NEWBURY**

**Present:**

**Group A – Other Faiths Members**

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

**Group B – Church of England Members**

Mrs Val Bolan (Church of England), Maria Pratico (Church of England) and Mr Robin Sharples (Church of England)

**Group C – Teaching Association Members**

Bernard Eggleton (NASUWT)

**Group D – WBC Councillors**

Councillor Billy Drummond (WBC), Councillor Tony Linden and Councillor David Marsh

**Also Present:** David Rees, Professional Adviser,  
Rachel Manley, LA Adviser  
Janet Giddings. Clerk

#### **1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

- Councillor Peter Argyle
- Clare Hawkins
- Rabbi Zvi Solomons
- Mary Stagg

Unfortunately the RE undergraduates who were due to accompany Clare Hawkins were unable to attend. Their visit has been postponed to a later date.

#### **2 Discussion with Donna Fox**

The Chair of West Berkshire SACRE, David Taylor, welcomed Donna Fox, Principal Adviser for School Improvement at West Berkshire to the meeting.

##### **2.1 The role of Principal Adviser for School Improvement**

Donna Fox was a teacher for 8 years and a Headteacher for 19 years before joining West Berkshire Council in 2019. Her responsibilities include schools and adult and community learning. Donna has a degree in RE and is interested in the development of critical and spiritual thinking. During her teaching career she helped to develop the RE syllabus in Hampshire and renamed the subject 'FAB' (Faith and Belief) to encourage children's interest.

##### **2.2 Working together to promote RE in schools**

Donna is keen to support SACRE by liaising with Rachel Manley, the LA Adviser. She is also happy to be involved in producing the next syllabus for implementation in 2023-24, with the aim of inspiring and challenging learners.

## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 25 FEBRUARY 2020 - MINUTES

Members discussed the provision of RE in local schools with Donna Fox. Councillor David Marsh raised concerns about Park House School in his Ward. The school teaches Character and Values and was rated Good in all areas following an Ofsted inspection in October 2019. The school offers a GCSE RS option to those in Key Stage 4 but no-one has chosen to study it. David Taylor made contact with Park House School recently and was disappointed that not much had changed. Bernard Eggleton expressed concern that targets would change with new inspection criteria. He was reassured by Donna Fox that the new Ofsted framework is intended to build on the previous framework.

Donna Fox suggested writing to Ofsted Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman, highlighting the concerns SACRE members had regarding the provision of RE in West Berkshire and the legal requirement to teach RE.

Robin Sharples asked about worship and assembly. The distinction between Collective Worship and assemblies was discussed at the last SACRE meeting in November 2019. Donna Fox suggested primary schools introduce a weekly topic e.g. peace to be explored by each year group during the week, concluding in an end of week assembly. Penny Judge and Sue Ball attended the last meeting to explain how they implement this at Thatcham Park Primary School.

### 3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 4 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

### 5 Actions (not covered elsewhere)

#### 5.1 Progress on newsletter

Clare Hawkins was unable to present this item. Janet Giddings showed members a sample newsletter Clare had prepared. It may be possible to publish this on the Education Portal in addition to sending via the email distribution lists for primary and secondary schools in West Berkshire. Members were invited to submit items for inclusion in the first newsletter e.g. events, diary dates.

**Action: Janet Giddings will agree with Clare Hawkins to send a draft copy of the newsletter to members before it is published.**

### 6 Membership

**6.1 Rachel Manley, Maria Pratico and Zvi Solomons have now been formally appointed.**

Rachel Manley is Headteacher at Yattendon CE Primary School and is an adviser to SACRE, replacing Keith Harvey. In 2019 Yattendon CE Primary School was awarded the Gold RE Mark from the RE Council of England and Wales, and the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) judged the school an 'excellent' establishment. The school is only the third in the Oxford Diocese to be awarded this honour.

Maria Pratico and Zvi Solomons have re-joined SACRE. Maria Pratico has 42 years' teaching experience and was Head of RE at St Bartholomew's School, Newbury until she retired in 2014. David Taylor explained that Zvi Solomons attended the last SACRE meeting, but may only be able to attend one meeting each year.

## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 25 FEBRUARY 2020 - MINUTES

There are vacancies in Group A – Other Faiths Members. SACRE members were asked to invite new members from other faiths to join.

### 7 Schools

#### 7.1 West Berks RE exam results

Members reviewed the GCSE and A Level exam charts included in the Agenda Pack. Exam results were received from The Downs School on 26<sup>th</sup> February (the day after the SACRE meeting). The charts have been updated and are included with these minutes.

David Rees said it would be useful to know how many students were in each year group to identify the number studying RE.

#### 7.2 Primary Schools/Network

David Rees presented an update on the Primary School RE Leaders' Network. At the last meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the group discussed the importance of RE and the impact if it was not implemented. The 2019 Ofsted Framework focuses on the three I's: Intent, Implementation and Impact. David Rees introduced free online resources and current reports relevant to those teaching RE in primary schools.

#### 7.3 Secondary Schools/Network

David Rees presented an update on the Secondary School RE Leaders' Network and said the last meeting was well attended. RE is not taught widely at GCSE or A Level in secondary schools in West Berkshire or in the Poole and Bournemouth area where David advises their local SACRE. Ofsted does not appear to recognise it as a standalone or academic subject.

Councillor David Marsh said he intends to visit Park House School in his Ward in the new academic year and offered to mention the network meetings to the new Head.

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

David Rees presented the West Berkshire (WB) SACRE Action Plan, April 2020-March 2021 as included in the Agenda pack, referring to the following items:

#### A. CORE BUSINESS, Actions 5. Subscribe to NASACRE

WB SACRE is a member of the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (NASACRE). The aims of NASACRE are to:

- assist SACREs to fulfil their responsibilities;
- represent their common concerns to other bodies;
- assist in the training and mutual consultation of SACRE members;
- encourage the development of the SACREs;
- undertake such other activities, appropriate to SACREs, as may benefit RE and collective worship

A SACRE Briefing is issued termly which covers national issues and news from local SACREs.

#### B. To support teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in their schools, Action 2. Support secondary network

David Rees said WB SACRE were lucky to have a secondary network. It enables discussion about the GCSE curriculum and how RE is taught at secondary level.

## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 25 FEBRUARY 2020 - MINUTES

Bernard Eggleton asked if pupils were given the opportunity to discuss current topics during the school day other than in assemblies. David Rees said RE can and should respond to the world around us.

### Budget

David Rees explained he advised a number of SACREs whose combined budgets enabled him to attend more events and share feedback.

**Action: Janet Giddings to ask Vicky Pearce, West Berkshire Council for a budget statement.**

## 9 **Berkshire Hub - David Taylor**

### 9.1 ***Real People, Real Faith* Video Project update**

David Taylor presented an update on this professionally filmed video project funded by the recent successful Westhill Bid.

Visits were made to a Shia mosque in Reading and a local synagogue. Planned visits include:

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 4 – 6pm

Reading Hindu Mandir, 112 Whitley St, Reading RG2 0EQ

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 4 – 6 pm

St Michaels' Church Warfield, Church Lane, RG42 6EE

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 4 – 6pm

Slough Baptist Church Windsor Rd, Slough SL1 2EJ

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 4 – 6 pm

GMG Gurdwara 221 Bath Road Slough SL14BA

These dates have been shared with local primary and secondary schools who are invited to participate.

**Action: Mobasshir Mushtaq offered to help arrange a visit to a Sunni mosque.**

### 9.2 **SACRE Conference at Easthampstead Park, Thursday 2 July 2020, 6pm-9pm**

David Taylor invited members to this event. The contribution SACRE makes to the hub enables up to 8 members to attend.

## 10 **Questions from Students - Clare Hawkins**

This item was adjourned to a later date.

## 11 **Any Other Business**

No further business was discussed.

## 12 **Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 19th May, 4.15pm**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 4.15pm at Yattendon Primary School, RG18 0UR. The school has a car park.

The guest speaker is Joni McAuliffe (Christian Outreach in Newbury Schools).



# **WEST BERKSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 19 MAY 2020**

**VENUE: DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK, THIS MEETING  
WAS HELD ONLINE AS A WEBINAR**

### **Present:**

#### **Group A – Other Faiths Members**

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

#### **Group B – Church of England Members**

Mrs Mary Stagg (Church of England)

#### **Group C – Teaching Association Members**

Bernard Eggleton (NASUWT) and Clare Hawkins (NASUWT)

#### **Group D – WBC Councillors**

Councillor Peter Argyle, Councillor Billy Drummond, Councillor Tony Linden and Councillor David Marsh

**Also Present:** Donna Fox (Principal Adviser for School Improvement), Moira Fraser (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager), Rachel Manley (LA Advisor), David Rees (Independent RE Advisor) and Jo Watt (Member Services Officer)

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting:** Val Bolan (Church of England), Maria Pratico (Church of England), Robin Sharples (Church of England) and Rabbi Zvi Solomons (Jewish faith).

### **Absent:**

#### **13 Welcome and introduction from the Chairman**

The Reverend David Taylor, Chairman of SACRE welcomed everyone to the meeting and said how pleased he was that each of the SACRE groups continued to be so well represented. David Taylor specifically thanked the West Berkshire Council elected Members for their attendance.

David Taylor also thanked the Officers at West Berkshire Council for setting up the remote meeting and for their hard work in ensuring that SACRE could meet despite the limitations of the current Covid-19 crisis.

#### **14 Conversation with Joni McAuliffe (Christian Outreach in Newbury Schools)**

David Taylor welcomed Joni McAuliffe from the organisation Christian Outreach in Newbury Schools (COINS). David Taylor said that whilst he had hoped the SACRE members could have met Joni in person, he was very pleased that Joni's presentation was still able to go ahead despite the current Covid-19 situation.

Joni said that SACRE members may have met her predecessor, Tania Wolak. Tania had now left COINS and Joni said she was very pleased to have the opportunity to introduce herself to the West Berkshire SACRE and provide more information on COINS.

Joni made the following points during her presentation:

## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 19 MAY 2020 - MINUTES

- The organisation COINS had been in operation for approximately thirty years and provided a rich resource in Newbury and the surrounding areas.
- Before joining COINS, Joni had experienced a varied teaching career including being the head of drama in a secondary school, a SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) and working in a Special School.
- Before the Covid-19 lockdown, Joni had been working on some exciting new programmes for KS3 children ('God and the Big Bang' which explored the relationship between God and science) and KS4 ('The P word' which looked at the harmful effects of pornography). Unfortunately, lockdown meant that COINS would need to delay taking these programmes into schools.
- The main project COINS had been working on since lockdown was developing their new website to provide a bank of resources for people to access.

The members of SACRE asked a series of questions:

- In response to a question from Councillor Billy Drummond, Joni McAuliffe said that COINS currently worked in twenty-one Primary Schools in West Berkshire and ran lunch clubs in sixteen of those schools. In terms of Secondary Schools, COINS had a presence in all the West Berkshire Secondary schools and one of the iColleges with lunch clubs at Kennet School and Park House School. Joni said that she was still trying to make contact with The Clere School in Burghclere (a Hampshire County Council secondary school). Joni added that her links with secondary schools were often based on knowing a person in the school to allow her to make contact with the RE specialist.
- The lunch clubs that COINS ran in schools were faith-based clubs which included a Bible story and a craft connected to that story.
- Joni McAuliffe said that the COINS Christmas and Easter events had been particularly popular and well attended over the years. Each event was very creative and interactive and started with a game, often with a professional actor, and then went on to provide a carousel of activities for the children to choose from. Approximately 800 West Berkshire school children had been involved in these events.
- In response to a question from Councillor Peter Argyle, Joni McAuliffe said that COINS did not have a presence in schools in Tilehurst as a Reading based charity called 'RE Inspired' covered the schools in that area.
- Councillor Tony Linden said he noted the position regarding the schools at the eastern end of the district but he was also concerned that schools at the western end of the district had been included in the COINS programme. In response to a further question from Councillor Linden, Joni McAuliffe said that whilst she had a personal interest in connecting with people from different religions and having conversations about other religions, her specific remit set by the COINS trustees was to focus on Christianity.
- On the subject of other religions, David Taylor said that the West Berkshire SACRE had been involved in the cross Berkshire project entitled 'Real People Real Faith' which involved talking to other faith leaders, visiting their places of worship and producing videos for school children and young people. David Taylor said he would be happy to share the videos with COINS. Joni McAuliffe said she would appreciate receiving the information. **Action – David Taylor to share the 'Real People Real Faith' project with Joni McAuliffe when it was ready.**
- In response to a question from Mobasshir Mushtaq, Joni McAuliffe said that Winchcombe School in Newbury did not have a COINS lunch club but children from the school attended every event that COINS ran.
- In response to a question from Bernard Eggleton, Joni McAuliffe said that whilst she had the contact details for a lot of schools, she often did not know who the RE

specialist was. David Taylor said that he was constantly working with David Rees, the West Berkshire SACRE's independent consultant to update their school RE specialist database and they would have a conversation about whether they could share that information with COINS.

- In response to a question from David Rees, Joni McAuliffe said there was no cost to the schools or other users for accessing the COINS service. COINS was privately funded by a number of churches who also paid her salary. David Rees said he would like the opportunity to meet up with Joni McAuliffe outside the meeting to discuss the work of COINS in more detail. **Action – David Rees to contact Joni McAuliffe to arrange a meeting.**

On behalf of the West Berkshire SACRE, David Taylor thanked Joni McAuliffe for attending the meeting.

*Joni McAuliffe left the meeting at 4.40 pm*

## **15 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were proposed by David Taylor and seconded by Councillor Tony Linden and were subsequently approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **16 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

## **17 Actions (not covered elsewhere) - Progress on Newsletter**

Clare Hawkins reported that she had been working on the latest newsletter. Due to the Covid-19 lockdown situation the main focus of the newsletter was highlighting the vast number of free RE resources available to schools at this time and how to access them.

David Taylor thanked Clare Hawkins for her work on the newsletter.

## **18 Membership**

David Taylor said that whilst SACRE currently had sufficient representatives in each of the membership groups, it was always positive to welcome new members if the maximum numbers had not been reached. David Taylor asked SACRE if they knew of anyone who might wish to join the committee.

Clare Hawkins said that one of her PGCE students, Mr Chris Ward, who would be teaching at the Willink School was interested in joining the West Berkshire SACRE. Councillor Peter Argyle welcomed this suggestion and said that new membership, especially involving younger people should be encouraged.

**Action – Jo Watt/Janet Giddings to make the necessary arrangements to appoint Mr Chris Ward to SACRE including to ascertain which group he would wish to represent.**

Councillor Billy Drummond said that he had a friend who was a Sikh and might be interested in joining the group as an 'other faith' member. The SACRE members welcomed this suggestion.

**Action – Councillor Billy Drummond to speak to his friend about joining the group and would report back.**

*Post item note – at the end of the meeting, Moira Fraser informed SACRE noted that an additional person (a teacher) who had been watching the live broadcast of the meeting had come forward to say they would like to join the group.*

**Action – Jo Watt/Janet Giddings to make the necessary arrangements to appoint this person to SACRE including to ascertain which group they would wish to represent.**

## 19 Schools

David Taylor said that it had been recommended that as the discussion on this item would include the disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial/business affairs of a particular organisation (Paragraph 3 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the [Local Government \(Access to Information\)\(Variation\) Order 2006](#). [Rule 8.10.4 of the Constitution also refers](#)) the item would be discussed at the end of the meeting under Part II arrangements and therefore in private. SACRE noted that they would be asked to vote on this recommendation when all the other items of business has been dispensed with.

## 20 2020-21 Budget and Action Plan Update - David Rees

David Rees introduced the West Berkshire SACRE budget and action plan for 2020/21. SACRE confirmed that they had seen the budget and noted the essential expenditure such as the subscription to the Pan Berkshire SACRE hub along with suggestions for expenditure on non-essential items such as the network meetings.

David Rees outlined the budget and action plan for 2020/21 and highlighted the following key points:

- The West Berkshire SACRE was in a strong position. It had a good membership that was quorate in each group and could therefore focus on the core business of RE.
- Due to the current Covid-19 situation, there would be no school exam results in the next action plan.
- The NASACRE subscription would continue to be paid and NASACRE had still been providing newsletters that David Rees was happy to disseminate and share with the West Berkshire SACRE.
- The Primary and Secondary network meetings had been postponed for this term due to the Covid-19 situation. The possibility of holding two meetings in the first proper term back at school was an option but this would depend on the circumstances at the time.
- Despite the Covid-19 situation, the pan-Berkshire hub had still been in operation and working on the implementation of the syllabus and projects such as 'Real People, Real Faith'.
- The SACRE annual conference had been postponed until 2021.

There were no comments or questions from the SACRE members

## 21 Berkshire Hub

David Taylor reported that he attended the Berkshire hub termly meetings in his role as Chairman of the West Berkshire SACRE and David Rees also attended some of the meetings. These meetings were an opportunity for the six SACREs in Berkshire to get together and recently they had been working together on the 'Real People, Real Faith' project.

David Taylor reported that the project was now two thirds complete. Faith Leaders in the following places of worship had already been interviewed:

- Maidenhead Reform Synagogue
- Reading Hindu Mandir
- St. Michael's Church, Warfield
- Zainabiya Shi'a Islamic Centre in Reading

SACRE noted that the planned visits to Slough Baptist Church, and the GMG Gurdwara, Slough had been postponed due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

The Berkshire hub had been considering how the videos could be used during lockdown.

Mobasshir Mushtaq asked if a visit had been arranged to the Mosque in Reading. Mobasshir Mushtaq added that as the Imam of the Newbury Mosque he would be happy to arrange a visit to the Newbury Mosque. David Taylor responded to say that he would like to extend the project as much as possible so in principle he would be interested in this offer.

Mary Stagg asked if it was only faith leaders who had been interviewed for the 'Real People, Real Faith' project or if the interviews could be extended to include ordinary people. Mary Stagg added that younger children understood for example that it was a Vicar's job to have faith but that it would have been interesting to hear the views of other people. It was hoped that this would show youngsters that lots of different people had faith. David Taylor said that during the Warfield Church filming, a number of other participants had also been interviewed.

Bernard Eggleton said that it was very encouraging to hear what had already been achieved by the project.

Councillor Tony Linden added that the churches in his ward also provided a number of social and community activities such as coffee mornings and it would be good if this type of activity could be included in the project.

In terms of the videos that had already been committed to, Mobasshir Mushtaq suggested that given the current circumstances, the interviews could be completed remotely using Zoom or a similar video conferencing tool.

David Taylor confirmed that the SACRE conference had been postponed and would now take place in 2021.

## **22 Questions from Students - Clare Hawkins**

Clare Hawkins reported that two of the current PGCE students were currently watching the live broadcast of the SACRE meeting. Clare added that all seven of the first cohort of the RE PGCE students had secured teaching jobs for September in West Berkshire schools or slightly further afield. It was noted that three people had signed up for the new RE PGCE course starting in September 2020 which was sufficient to run the course for the forthcoming year.

David Taylor congratulated Clare on her new full time job in Bracknell. Clare informed SACRE that she would continue to run the PGCE course on a Monday each week despite her new role.

## **23 Any Other Business**

There were no items of Any Other Business.

## **24 Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 at 4.15 pm at Yattendon School.

It was agreed that the meeting scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 should be held at a place of worship. It was suggested that this could be at the Newbury Mosque on Pound Street, Newbury.

**Action – Mobasshir Mushtaq to confirm if the Newbury Mosque would be able to host the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.**

25 **Part II - Schools**

**Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED** that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the under-mentioned item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as contained in Paragraph 3 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the [Local Government \(Access to Information\)\(Variation\) Order 2006](#). [Rule 8.10.4 of the Constitution also refers](#).

**Schools**

*(Paragraph 3 – information relating to financial/business affairs of particular organisation)*

SACRE considered an exempt report (Agenda Item 7) which involved a discussion on the delivery of RE in West Berkshire Schools.

*Kevin Griffin the Zoom meeting host confirmed the live broadcast of the meeting had ceased at 5.07 pm.*



## **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](mailto:janet.giddings@westberks.gov.uk)

Professional Adviser – David Rees: [david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com)

Local Authority Officer – Rachel Manley: [headteacher@yattendon.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto: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
<b>Group A</b>	<b>Christian denominations and other religions</b>	
	Mr. Mobasshir Mushtaq	3
	Rabbi Zvi Solomons	1
	Revd David Taylor (Chair)	4
<b>Group B</b>	<b>The Church of England</b>	
	Mrs Valerie Bolan	3
	Mrs Mary Pratico	2
	Mr. Robin Sharples	2
	Mrs Mary Stagg	2
<b>Group C</b>	<b>Associations representing teachers</b>	
	Mr Bernard Eggleton	3
	Mrs Clare Hawkins	3
<b>Group D</b>	<b>The Local Authority</b>	
	Councillor Billy Drummond	3
	Councillor Peter Argyle	3
	Councillor Tony Linden	4
	Councillor David Marsh	3
<b>Professional RE Adviser</b>	David Rees	4
<b>LA Adviser</b>	Rachel Manley	3

<b>WBC</b>	Donna Fox Moira Fraser	3 2
<b>Clerk</b>	Janet Giddings Jo Watt	2 1

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