

Notice of Meeting

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 4.15pm
Meeting to be held online via Zoom

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, 18
May 2021 (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), Clare Hawkins (NASUWT) and Chris Ward (NEU)

Group D – WBC Councillors:

Councillor Lynne Doherty (Leader of the Council and District Strategy and Communications), Councillor Billy Drummond (WBC), Councillor Tony Linden and Councillor David Marsh

LA Advisor: David Rees

Guests: Donna Fox, Revd Julie Howells (Church of England) and Dilip Ladwa (Hindu)

Agenda

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1 Welcome and Apologies

Introduce Dilip Ladwa, who may be interested in being a Hindu representative (see Item 2: Membership).

2 Membership

2.1 Rachel Manley is retiring from SACRE. Do we need an LA Adviser now?

2.2 Group A: Can we find Hindu and RC reps? And a second Jewish rep?

2.3 Group C: Roseanna Looker, Chris Ward

Rev. Julie Howell will remain as an observer while she is in the Newbury area.

3 Minutes

To sign and approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of SACRE held on 23 February 2021.

5 - 8

4 Matters arising from the Minutes

5 Actions (not covered elsewhere)



**Agenda - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to be held on Tuesday, 18
May 2021 (continued)**

- 6 **Overview 2021 - David Taylor** 9 - 10
- 7 **Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub**
7.1 Report on launch of *Real People Real Faith* films 28 April - David Taylor
- 8 **Schools** 11 - 16
8.1 West Berks RE exam results – Janet Giddings
8.2 Support for Secondary Schools
a) Park House – Councillors David Marsh and Billy Drummond
b) Trinity - Val Bolan
c) Denefield - Amanda Bedding
d) John O’Gaunt – David Taylor
8.3 Recovery Support (including KS4, KS5?) – Clare Hawkins
8.4 Secondary & Primary Networks – David Rees
8.5 How to contact more RE Leads in schools
School contact list?
Facebook group?
Could some of us make individual contact? – David Taylor
- 9 **Newsletter - David Rees**
- 10 **2021-22 Budget and Action Plan - David Taylor/David Rees**
- 11 **Equality and Diversity**
- 12 **Any Other Business**
- 13 **Date and Venue of Next Meeting(s)**

Sarah Clarke
Service Director: Strategy and Governance



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WEST BERKSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2021

VENUE:

DUE TO COVID-19, THIS MEETING WILL BE 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) and Clare Hawkins (NASUWT)

Group D – WBC Councillors

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

Also Present: Janet Giddings

1 Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

David Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Revd Julie Howell from St George's Church, Wash Common, Newbury who would be attending SACRE meetings as an observer.

Apologies were received from Donna Fox, Councillor David Marsh, Maria Pratico and Robin Sharples and Rabbi Zvi Solomons.

The funeral of former Vice Chair of SACRE, Bernard Eggleton, was held on 14 January 2021 at St Nicholas' Church, Newbury. David Taylor said it was a privilege to attend the service.

Clare Hawkins reported that the proceeds of the Paypal fund set up in Bernard's memory would be donated to Park House School for KS5 students.

2 Membership

David Taylor referred to an email received from Jake Berger, Board of Deputies of British Jews about Jewish representation on SACREs. WB SACRE welcomes regular attendance in addition to Rabbi Zvi Solomons.

SACRE is also looking for new members particularly to represent the following religion and worldview communities: Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2020 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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4 Matters arising from the Minutes

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

5 RE Trails

Vicky Pearce, School Improvement & Governance Trading and Business Support Manager, West Berkshire Council, manages the WB SACRE budget. She has highlighted an annual payment of £200 that is made to a local website (RE Trails) which is currently unused. Members discussed the arrangement and agreed to cancel all future payments.

6 Schools

6.1 Recovery support: update on use of extra funding – Clare Hawkins

In July 2021 West Berkshire Council allocated £5000 to WB SACRE to provide recovery support during the coronavirus pandemic. The committee agreed how the money should be spent at the meeting on 3 November 2020.

Clare Hawkins negotiated a 40% discount from Crown House Publishing on Making Every RE Lesson Count: Six principles to support religious education teaching by Louise Hutton. It is hoped the 78 books will be purchased and despatched before the Easter break.

Online tuition was offered to secondary school RE students in Years 11 and 13. Teachers were approached first, then students, but no response was received. Clare Hawkins explained the offer was appreciated by teachers but there were logistical issues. The level of response is expected to improve once schools re-open. Schools are currently closed to children of non-key workers during the coronavirus pandemic; they are expected to re-open on 8 March 2021. Clare intends to promote the offer through the secondary school network meetings and newsletters.

Action: David Taylor said the group could review progress at the next meeting on 18 May 2021 and, if necessary, revise the proposal.

6.2 West Berks RE exam results – Janet Giddings

Janet Giddings is collating the RE exam results for the academic year 2019/20 to be included in the Annual Report. Schools report the number of students taking an RE exam and the number of those students who passed the exam. The committee may wish to consider requesting and publishing more data, such as the percentage of the year group studying RE, for context.

Action: Janet Giddings to provide exam results data.

6.3 Primary Schools/Network – David Rees

The primary school network meetings are well attended with an average of 15-20 participants. The meetings are currently held online and offer the opportunity to share information, ideas and CPD links. The next meeting will be held on 16 March 2021.

6.4 Secondary Schools/Network – David Taylor

Clare Hawkins has an item on the agenda of the next secondary school network meeting to find out what support is needed by the secondary schools from WB SACRE.

David Taylor has been in touch with a few of the local secondary schools and suggested members may wish to make contact with others. Amanda Bedding is a teacher at Calcot Primary School and offered to contact Miss Mennear, Head of Humanities at Denefield School. Val Bolan offered to contact Mrs Murray at Trinity School.

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Action: David Taylor and Clare Hawkins to provide bullet points for contact meetings.

6.5 Newsletter – David Rees

David Rees edits the RE Online website and has access to a wide range of information and resources which will inform the content of the next newsletter. The newsletter will be issued in the first week of term and includes:

- Local and national RE developments
- Free classroom resources
- Upcoming CPD opportunities
- News from faith communities – national and local
- Feedback from virtual conferences

All members are expected to contribute to the newsletter.

6.6 Approach to Tom Goodenough – David Marsh

David Marsh was not present at the meeting. The action point from the previous meeting (to meet the new Headteacher of Park House School, Tom Goodenough) will be carried forward to the next meeting.

7 **2020-21 Budget and Action Plan Update - David Rees**

David Rees presented the latest Budget and Action Plan update. The budget is in a good position with an anticipated underspend - to be confirmed by Vicky Pearce. David Rees will attend the online NASACRE conference this summer, making a further saving.

8 **Equality and Diversity**

David Rees highlighted current issues, such as the Black Lives Matter movement, that are relevant to the teaching of RE in schools. He explained there was a shift in education with greater awareness. Clare Hawkins said she supported the idea of widening views and suggested including a paragraph in the next newsletter. Clare is a member of a Black Theology Reading Group and was willing to share links to their future online meetings.

Councillor Tony Linden said Pamela Voss would be a useful contact and that it was important to support students' mental health. Pamela is the Equality and Diversity Officer at West Berkshire Council. David Rees suggested she may wish to attend a SACRE meeting in future.

9 **Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub**

David Taylor advised the Real People, Real Faith videos were completed and would be hosted by NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education). The proposed launch date of 28 April 2021 was to be confirmed by Anne Andrews.

10 **Any Other Business**

No further business was discussed.

11 **Date of Next Meeting**

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West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education: 2021

Agenda Item 6

1. Our Purpose is to advise West Berkshire Council on:

- a) Collective Worship
- b) Religious Education, in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus

2. How do we achieve this?

- a) We publish and launch the agreed syllabus every 5 years.
We did this in 2018. It be soon be time to start work on a new one!
- b) We encourage the development of material to support the implementation of the syllabus.
This is ongoing, and our Adviser David Rees is involved.
- c) We support the provision of termly network meetings for RE coordinators in primary schools
David Rees runs these. Also, either he or David Taylor attends the existing secondary network.
- d) We produce a termly newsletter for schools
David Rees produces this
- e) We 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.
Schools have copies of this.
- f) We receive presentations from teachers and members of faith communities on issues related to RE and collective worship.
Recent presentations have included: The needs of Muslim pupils taking exams during Ramadan; RS at Theale Green School; Resources for collective worship in primary schools.
- g) We are part of the Pan Berkshire Hub, a meeting of the six Berkshire SACRE Chairs run by Anne Andrews, RE Adviser at the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education
David Taylor and David Rees attend this and report back. A recently completed project is a series of videos called Real People, Real Faith to assist with key parts of the syllabus at KS1, KS2 and KS3.
- h) Through the Pan Berkshire Hub, we promote the “Crossing the Bridges” project which aims to link schools and faith communities
Val Bolan has worked on this
- i) Through the Pan Berkshire Hub, we provide an annual conference for all interested parties
This is still under consideration for 2021.
- j) We publish an annual report of our work
The Chair produces this

3. To help us achieve our goals, West Berkshire Council resources us with:

- a) An annual budget
In 2021-22 this is £4,840, the same as the previous year. Of the extra £5,000 made available to us for the support of schools in Covid-recovery, £2822 remains and must be spent by 31 March 2022.
- b) The services of a Clerk
Janet Giddings is our valued Clerk

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