

Notice of Meeting

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Tuesday, 1st November, 2022 at 4.30 pm
in Roger Croft Room Council Offices
Market Street Newbury

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Jack Karimi on 01635 503605
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**Agenda - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to be held on Tuesday, 1
November 2022 (continued)**

To: Group A - Other Faiths Members:

Dilip Ladwa (Hindu), 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) 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, Councillor Billy Drummond, Councillor Tony Linden and
Councillor David Marsh

LA Advisors: Kate House

Agenda

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2 Membership	
3 Election of Chair & Vice Chair for Academic Year 2022/23	
4 Minutes	5 - 8
To sign and approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of SACRE held on 24 May 2022.	
5 Actions	
6 Draft Annual Report 2021-22	9 - 14
7 Hub	
7.1	Info from last Hub meeting – David Rees
7.2	Promoting 'Real People Real Faith' videos to new RE leads. View example at https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/real-people-real-faith/ (David Taylor, Jack Karimi)
8 New Syllabus	
8.1	Concept Chart responses from SACRE members in Groups A & B (David Rees)
8.2	Funding from West Berkshire (David Taylor)
9 Collective Worship	



Agenda - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to be held on Tuesday, 1 November 2022 (continued)

How do we monitor and support this? (David Rees)

10 Networks

- 10.1 West Berkshire RE exam results (Jack Karimi)
- 10.2 Secondary and Primary Networks (David Rees)
- 10.3 Support for individual schools (various)

11 Newsletter

12 2022-23 Budget Update and Action Plan

15 - 16

13 Equality and Diversity

14 Next Meeting Date and Venue

14 February? 23 May?

15 Any Other Business

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, 24 MAY 2022

VENUE: ROGER CROFT ROOM COUNCIL OFFICES MARKET STREET NEWBURY

Present:

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)

Group C – Teaching Association Members

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

Group D – WBC Councillors

Councillor Lynne Doherty, Councillor Billy Drummond and Councillor David Marsh

Also Present: Rose Carberry, Tom Dunn (Zoom Host), Jack Karimi (Clerk) and Dilip Ladwa

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Kate House, Roseanne Obsiye, Robin Sharples and Pamela Voss

30 Membership

David Taylor noted that Jack Karimi is the new clerk.

Jack Karimi provided the update regarding the ID process for installing Roseanne Obsiye and Dilip Ladwa to the Committee. IDs had been drafted for installing the new members and those were being checked.

Rose Carberry noted that Kate House would take over as the LA Advisor from the next meeting. The Chairman thanked her for recruiting Kate House.

31 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2022 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

32 Actions

The list of actions arising were approved.

33 Equality & Diversity (Pamela Voss)

The item was rescheduled to the next meeting as Pamela Voss was not present.

34 SACRE Overview 2022 (David Taylor)

The Chairman noted that the remit of SACRE was collective worship and Religious Education, and that a lot was being done by the Committee on Religious Education but

less focus was on Religious Education. It was agreed that the new syllabus would be delayed until 2024, and a number of visits had been held.

The Committee was part of the Berkshire Hub, which combined six SACREs in Berkshire, and the Chairman and David Rees had been attending those meetings, where they had been provided an update on the 'Real People, Real Faith' video series, and an Annual Conference would be held on the new syllabus. David Rees noted that there were no plans for an Annual Conference but that they were able to do that now. The Chairman noted that he had taken over the Annual Report, and that the Committee remained a member of NASACRE.

35 2022-23 Action Plan (David Rees)

David Rees presented the 2022-23 Action Plan. The Chairman noted that the Committee should think about the Collective Worship piece and what they wanted to do about that. In addition, the Conference was an issue for the Hub.

The Chairman asked the teachers on the Committee for input on collective worship.

Mobasshir Mushtaq asked what was involved in collective worship and was being asked of schools. The Chairman responded that schools were asked to provide an act of collective worship that reflected Christianity as the main religion, but also all faiths and no faith.

Clare Hawkins noted that it was a legal requirement, but that law was being reconsidered as it was difficult to provide a balanced collective worship that accommodated all children, and that the responsibility was not on the Head of RE. Amanda Bedding stated that whole-school assemblies were returning. Rabbi Zvi Solomons noted that the Chair of Reading SACRE was very interested in collective worship, and it would be useful to speak to him, and that SACRE should be aware that the obligation was not binding on schools.

The Chairman noted that in his experience there were whole-school assemblies that were presenting religious ideas and themes, and that more practical resources at from other faiths were appreciated. At secondary schools, it was far less common, with assemblies being limited primarily to notices. Mobasshir Mushtaq responded that there were Islamic resources that could be offered, and that collective worship would have to adapt to be innovative, finding common grounds between faiths. The Chairman agreed that it was a good platform in which to share stories between faiths, and be inclusive to all, providing a quieter time in the day for all students. SACRE's role was to find and distribute those resources.

Dilip Ladwa asked whether the aim was to have everybody together in one place, or for diversity of religion. Rabbi Zvi Solomons responded that the legal framework stated that it should be of a primarily Christian nature, which he stated Jewish students would object to. Rabbi Solomons noted that the sharing of stories with universal application, and ways of worship that were comfortable for everybody would be the best approach, but may not fulfil the remit.

The Chairman asked Clare Hawkins what the state of the review was. Clare Hawkins responded that a white paper had been presented for consultation, and the change of the law in Wales to make RE and PSHE teaching compulsory has changed the conversation, and that the Government was being lobbied.

The Chairman suggested that the Government guidance be looked at more closely in advance for the next meeting. David Rees noted that SACREs across the country were struggling with defining it and determining their role in providing guidance and support.

36 2022-23 Budget (David Taylor)

David Rees left the Zoom call for the duration of the item.

The Chairman presented the Budget for the meeting. The Chairman noted that the amount given to David Rees for his services, experience and insight was good value. Councillor Billy Drummond, Val Bolan and Mobasshir Mushtaq concurred.

The Committee agreed the Budget for the 2022-23 period.

37 Schools

Exam Results

The Chairman noted that the 2021 results had not been provided to the Committee. Clare Hawkins noted that many schools have not declared them due to teacher-assessed grades, and Rose Carberry confirmed that direct comparisons were not available. Rose Carberry stated that she would ask the Post-16 advisor for more information.

Secondary and Primary Networks

David Rees stated that the secondary networks were being run through a subscription model. Clare Hawkins questioned this, as she had never seen a network run like the secondary networks were, usually affiliated through NATRE. Clare Hawkins questioned the group that the networks were being run through. David Rees responded that he was unfamiliar with this arrangement, and that his networks were being run through NATRE.

Amanda Bedding noted that she ran a network through the Berkshire Leadership Programme, which schools could subscribe to, and that she was the RE head for.

David Rees noted that his network did not have a subscription model, and that he was able to link networks in different areas to distribute resources and materials. David Rees noted that attendance was much better online.

38 Hub (David Taylor)

The Chairman noted that he attended the last Hub meeting in March. The Real People, Real Faith videos were being extended, and there was an opportunity for an RE teacher to write for RE Today. Clare Hawkins volunteered to write for it, with support from David Rees.

39 Newsletter and Updates (David Rees)

David Rees noted that the newsletter had come out on the first week of term, which was sent out to call SACRE members, and that the next one would go out on the second week of the September terms. It was an update on what was happening nationally

Clare Hawkins noted that she had proofread two of the Introduction to RE articles, which she thought would be useful for all to understand the curriculum around RE and the framework.

40 November Meeting Date and Venue

It was agreed that the next meeting would be livestreamed on YouTube.

Clare Hawkins proposed that the meeting be moved back to 4:30 PM. This was agreed by the Committee.

The next meeting was set for 1 November 2022 at 4:30 PM.

41 Any Other Business

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 24 MAY 2022 - MINUTES

Councillor David Marsh noted that a new headteacher had been appointed at John Rankin School, and that she insists on holding assemblies herself, even during lockdown. The shortlist of candidates each took an assembly during the hiring process, and he found the holding of assemblies to be encouraging.

42 Support for Individual Schools

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

SACRE considered an exempt report (Agenda Item 13) which involved a discussion on support for individual schools.



Annual SACRE Report 2021-2022

(Sep 2021-Aug 2022)

Contents

- 1. Introduction & Overview**
- 2. Statutory Responsibilities in RE**
- 3. Statutory Responsibilities in Collective Worship**
- 4. Links with other bodies**
- 5. Local Involvement**
- 6. SACRE arrangements**
- 7. Appendices**

1. Introduction and Overview

In 2021-22 we were recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools faced the daunting task of regaining ground after all the lost time of the previous year. At SACRE we were mindful of this and sought to support schools wherever possible. One example of this was the distribution of 78 care packages containing the book "Make Every RE Lesson Count". We were also able to arrange some extra tutoring sessions for pupils, and CPD sessions for teachers. Many thanks are due to our Vice-Chair Clare Hawkins who did much of this work on top of her full-time teaching role.

This year saw the extension of the *Real People, Real Faith* videos to include a greater range of faith traditions. These videos, produced by the Pan-Berkshire Hub, were starting to be used and valued by schools.

As ever we were blessed to have the services of our Professional Consultant David Rees who again provided the regular teachers' network meetings which have become a central part of what we offer. David also continued to produce the termly newsletter which is a great source of information for teachers.

This year we added Equality and Diversity to each of our agendas and invited a representative from West Berkshire Council to talk to us about this, although this was delayed until a future meeting.

Two new membership applications were in process during the year, Dilip Ladwa in Group A and Roseanna Obsiye in Group C. We lost Maria Pratico and Robin Sharples from Group B as both moved away. Rose Carberry joined us as the new Principal Adviser for School Improvement, and also found a new LA Advisor for us in Kate House, who would start in autumn 2022.

Attendance at all three meetings was good, and we are grateful to everyone for their commitment and support. Three different people clerked our meetings.

At West Berkshire SACRE we are keen to offer direct support to our local schools in their practice of collective worship (CW) and the teaching of RE. We spend time discussing how we are doing this and possible developments in doing so. This year we have again given RE much more attention than CW.

2. Statutory Responsibilities in RE

In West Berkshire we produce our Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) in conjunction with the other five SACREs in Berkshire once every five years. The LAS is well-established in most of our schools, and most academies have also adopted it.

During the year we discussed the new Agreed Syllabus due to be published in 2023. Due to the pandemic, and having consulted with the other Berkshire SACREs, we decided along with them to delay this until 2024. The preparation work was already underway.

In 2021-22 we continued to monitor and support the teaching of RE regularly. We were able to visit several individual schools during the year in order to support RE staff there.

We did not receive any information about withdrawals from RE this year.

SACRE is not aware of any Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM) awards this year but is keen to promote the REQM. Our Professional Adviser David Rees is an REQM assessor and often includes information about it to teachers at network meetings.

3. Statutory Responsibilities in Collective Worship

SACRE is aware of the need to monitor collective worship and continues to engage with local religion and worldview communities to provide appropriate speakers to help schools hear the lived experience and lead reflections. Following the pandemic, however, many schools are still hesitant about inviting outside speakers in. SACRE is in communication with other SACREs who have produced materials and advice to help schools with collective worship including suggested themes, a code of conduct for visitors and tie ins with the curriculum.

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'.) We have not considered our Determination Process in recent years.

4. Links with Other Bodies

As mentioned above West Berkshire SACRE works closely with our sister SACREs in the Pan-Berkshire Hub. David Rees and David Taylor attend regular meetings of the Hub. We include membership of NASACRE in our budget each year. David Rees helps us stay in touch with RE Online and the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. Links to other organisations are actively being sought and SACRE members are encouraged to investigate local and national contacts.

5. Local Involvement

As well as our teacher members, our Chairman David Taylor and other members of SACRE are involved in a number of local schools in various ways, for example organising and chairing panel discussions with faith and worldview representatives in secondary schools. These sometimes make the local press.

6. SACRE Arrangements

As mentioned above, David Rees continued to serve as our Professional Adviser, and we benefit hugely from his expertise and involvement. Jack Karimi from West Berkshire Council now serves as our Clerk. Both of them keep in contact with the Chair between SACRE meetings in order to share relevant information. Our new LA Adviser is Kate House, a local headteacher.

All four membership groups are regularly represented at meetings, and there were no issues with quoracy this year.

David Taylor updated the one-page overview of West Berkshire SACRE in order to help new members understand our purpose and role. No formal training for SACRE members was accessed this year.

In the financial year beginning April 2022 SACRE was granted £4840, the same figure as the previous year.

Our meetings continued online rather than in person right up until our summer meeting in 2022, and even then only a minority of us met in person, with the rest joining on screen.

Appendix 1 - Public Examination Results

Jack can you insert here?

Appendix 2 – Continuing Professional Development Provided to Schools

Our Professional Adviser David Rees has continued to provide regular network meetings for primary RE leads, and has also attended secondary networks.

Appendix 3 – Action Plan

Jack can you either insert it here or put “See attached”?

Membership of West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 2021-2022

Representing	Member	Meetings attended
Group A	Christian denominations and other religions	
	Mr. Mobasshir Mushtaq	3
	Rabbi Zvi Solomons	2
	Revd David Taylor (Chair)	3
Group B	The Church of England	
	Mrs Valerie Bolan	3
	Mrs Maria Pratico	1

	Mr. Robin Sharples	2
	Mrs Mary Stagg	2
Group C	Associations representing teachers	
	Ms. Amanda Bedding	3
	Mrs Clare Hawkins	3
	Mr. Christopher Ward	3
Group D	The Local Authority	
	Councillor Billy Drummond	3
	Councillor Tony Linden	1
	Councillor David Marsh	2
	Councillor Lynne Doherty	3
Professional RE Adviser	David Rees	3
LA Adviser	Vacant	
Principal Adviser for School Improvement	Rose Carberry	2
Clerk	Janet Giddings	1
	Jessica Bailiss	1
	Jack Karimi	1

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West Berkshire SACRE action plan Apr 2022– updated Oct 2022 - draft

Aim	Actions	Timescales	People Responsible	Cost	Autumn 2022	Winter/Spring 2023	Summer 2023
A. CORE BUSINESS To be a supportive and proactive SACRE enjoying full and well-informed membership	1. Fill membership vacancies	Ongoing	SACRE Chair SACRE Clerk		Ensure West Berkshire SACRE is representative of the West Berkshire area. An ongoing process		
	2. SACRE members attend termly SACRE meetings (3 per year) and, when possible, teacher meetings and training events	Termly SACRE meetings: Autumn 2022 Spring 2023 Summer 2023	SACRE Chair/SACRE Adviser SACRE members SACRE Clerk	SACRE Adviser to prepare and attend x3 SACRE meetings a year SACRE Clerk to administer each meeting LA officers and Adviser prep time	Tuesday 1 st November 2022		TBA
	3. Produce annual SACRE Report	Autumn Term 2022	SACRE Adviser and clerk with foreword by SACRE Chair	SACRE chair	Bring draft to Autumn 2022 meeting Complete by Jan 2023	Send to NASACRE by Jan 2023	
	4. Review the action plan at each meeting and discuss updates	At each SACRE meeting	SACRE Adviser and SACRE	SACRE Adviser time	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting
	5. Subscribe to NASACRE Representation at annual NASACRE conference & AGM Attend other relevant and useful events	Ongoing	SACRE clerk SACRE Adviser	Subscription £105 <i>SW SACRE conference fee and advisor time</i> <i>NASACRE Conference and AGM - SACRE Adviser time to attend NASACRE conference</i>	Subscription rate £105	SW SACRE conference – <i>DR to attend? feedback to network and SACRE</i>	NASACRE AGM <i>TBA – should we be there?</i>
	6. Monitor the locally agreed syllabus – especially in the lead up to review	Ongoing Part of the Pan Berkshire Hub plan	SACRE	Increased budget when review process begins again – next syllabus review began 2021/2 through the Hub	Early stages of review initiated through the hub – questionnaires considered	Falls under the remit of the Pan Berks Hub as of writing	
	7. Monitor and offer guidance on Collective	ongoing	SACRE		At each meeting SACRE to discuss ways of monitoring and supporting collective worship – Adviser to share guidance produced from other SACREs for members to consider.		

	Worship in schools						
<i>B. To support teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in their schools</i>	<i>1. Make connections with RE leaders through primary networks</i>	<i>Ongoing – increased due to virtual support</i>	SACRE Adviser	Adviser time	Tuesday 4 th October & 15 th November	TBD	TBD
	<i>2. Make connections with RE leaders through secondary networks</i>	Ongoing	SACRE Adviser/ SACRE Chair/ Teacher rep	Adviser time if needed	Oct 2022	TBD	TBD
	<i>3. Collate and Distribute a termly newsletter</i>	Termly	SACRE Adviser – SACRE members to offer suggestions	Adviser time	Sept 2022	Jan 2023	April 2023
C. To support the ongoing work of the Pan Berkshire Hub	Consolidate and develop the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub.	Next hub meeting – TBA	SACRE members to attend where possible	Part of the hub commitment - £900 paid to Oxford diocese – reviewed yearly	To become a SACRE agenda item at each meeting		
	Consolidate and develop the Crossing the Bridges directory	ongoing	SACRE members to link with faith communities	Hub will need someone to take charge of this.	To become a SACRE agenda item at each meeting		
	Contribute to the development of the 'Real People, Real faith' video clips	Ongoing (extended due to lockdown)	SACRE members	Part of the hub contribution – follow up work could be commissioned	Updates at each meeting as part of Hub update		
	Inform schools and contribute to /participate in Hub conference	TBD 2022/3?	SACRE members Hub links SACRE Adviser	Unknown?	Updates at each meeting		

Italicised points are up for consideration

DR Oct 2022