

# **SACRE Annual Report 2024–2025**

## **1. Introduction and Overview**

David Taylor was re-elected as Chair for the academic year 2024/25. He has stated that he will be stepping down as Chair in autumn 2025.

Amanda Bedding was re-elected as Vice-Chair.

David Rees resigned as Professional Adviser in March 2025.

Councillor Tony Vickers resigned and was replaced by Councillor Jeremy Cottam.

## **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. It is hoped that the new Locally Agreed Syllabus will be approved at the autumn 2025 SACRE meeting and adopted across West Berkshire from September 2026.

## **3. Statutory Responsibilities in Collective Worship**

SACRE has continued to monitor collective worship and to engage with local religion and worldview communities to provide appropriate speakers to help schools hear lived experiences and lead reflections. Several members have been in contact with schools regarding collective worship and have received mixed responses and feedback. West Berkshire SACRE will continue to contact and support schools with collective worship.

## **4. Links with Other Bodies**

As mentioned above, West Berkshire SACRE works closely with our sister SACREs in the Pan-Berkshire Hub. We include membership of NASACRE in our annual budget. 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 Chair, 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. There was SACRE attendance at the new Pan-Berkshire Locally Agreed Syllabus training event, which was well attended. Amanda Bedding hosts RE network meetings across the school year that continue to be well attended. She also hopes to host some training events related to the new Locally Agreed Syllabus to support its implementation across the LA. Since David Rees resigned as Professional Adviser, an RE newsletter has not been distributed within West Berkshire.

## **6. SACRE Arrangements**

David Rees resigned as Professional Adviser in March 2025. Bill Moore, Professional Adviser for Slough, has been attending to support West Berkshire. Thomas Radbourne from West Berkshire Council continues to serve as our Clerk. In the financial year beginning April 2025, SACRE was granted £5,300, an increase from £4,840 the previous year. The autumn 2024 and spring 2025 meetings were held in hybrid format (online and in person) at the West Berkshire Council offices, while the summer 2025 meeting was face to face and hosted by Chris Ward at The Willink School. It has been agreed that two meetings each year will continue to be held online or in hybrid format, and one will be face to face.