Date Published: 07 November 2014



#### STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

#### **13 NOVEMBER 2014**

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS**

## TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The following papers have been added to the agenda for the above meeting.

These were not available for publication with the rest of the agenda.

Alison Sanders Director of Corporate Services

Page No

- 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
- SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14
- SACRE NEWSLETTER

1 - 6





# Annual SACRE Report 2013-2014

The SACRE 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 Bracknell Forest SACRE works with NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs) and The Diocese of Oxford.

This report sets out a brief summary of the work of the Bracknell Forest SACRE over the academic year 2012-2013. The minutes of the meetings which give more detail can be found at http://democratic.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=157

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: Priya Patel Priya.Patel@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

The Local Authority Officer: ?

Adviser: Jo Fageant jo.fageant@oxford.anglican.org 07885 697447

#### The SACRE in 2013-2014

Reflecting established practice three meetings were held during the year:

7 November

20 March

10 July

David Fawcett was once again elected as Chair of the SACRE with Madeline Diver as Vice Chair. Members were grateful to them for continuing in these roles as it provides continuity and consistency. In contrast, after some resignations during the previous year, membership was reduced and several groups remained unrepresented. The SACRE is still seeking Buddhist and Sikh representation and members from most of the teachers' associations. It is a concern to members that teachers were significantly under-represented on the SACRE during this year. In the autumn the SACRE received a presentation from Frank Reid, a member of the British Humanist Association who made a case for Humanist representation on the SACRE. Following a thoughtful consideration of Frank's case the SACRE decided to write to thank him and to say there was no current wish to co-opt a Humanist

#### Partnership working

Anne Andres, a newly appointed representative of the Church of England on the SACRE, attended the NASACRE AGM in May. The day provided a very up-beat perspective on RE with Stephen Lloyd MP speaking passionately about the work of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on RE of which he is the Chair and of the increasingly widespread recognition of the importance of the subject. Workshop discussions highlighted excellent practice in SACREs around the country and provided Bracknell Forest with a number of interesting ideas to consider.

Some members of the SACRE attended a conference with five other Pan Berkshire SACREs to debate the possibility of partnership working across the region in response to a new national initiative to create regional hubs in support of RE. The idea received a positive response and it was agreed that a meeting would be convened early in the 2014/15 academic year to draft a proposal which could be developed into a bid for funding to support whatever work was envisaged.

#### **Courses for teachers**

Reflecting established practice, there was a twilight meeting three times during the year for primary school teachers of RE. These were all led by subject specialists in agreement with the Diocese of Oxford. Teachers who attended were appreciative of the opportunities these sessions provided for sharing of ideas and concerns. Topics covered included locally focused studies of religion, assessment and the Bracknell Forest artefact collection and how it might be used in classrooms. It was surprising how many of those attending the session on artefacts had been unaware of the loan collection. Members of the SACRE decided to remind schools once again of its existence and where to find the catalogue (http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sacre-artefacts-catalogue.pdf)

#### **Initiatives**

During the year the SACRE decided to review guidance on collective worship it had developed some years ago.

- A questionnaire was sent to all Bracknell Forest primary schools seeking information about how and by whom RE is taught as well as views on the 2012 locally agreed syllabus for RE. Disappointingly only eight schools responded. However, these revealed that teachers who attended the regular termly meetings for RE teachers found them very helpful. They were positive about the RE syllabus. Many were choosing to teach RE in blocked time rather than in short lessons each week. This was an idea recommended in Ofsted reports on RE.
- Very limited use of the artefact collection caused the SACRE to consider opening the loan facility to Wokingham schools for a fee. The idea was shared with the Wokingham SACRE. 2

- The annual review of GCSE and A level entries and results showed a steady picture as
  compared with the previous year. The SACRE was made aware that following the demise of the
  short GCSE course, all Bracknell secondary schools would change to providing the full course.
  In some cases students who did not opt to study the subject for examination would only have
  limited timetable time so were unlikely to have the opportunity to gain accreditation for their RE
  studies.
- In order to be better informed and build relationships with schools the SACRE decided to receive presentations from RE subject leaders. In the summer term members heard about RE at Edgebarrow Secondary School from the Head of RE, Lisa Baveystock. She reported that RE is a popular subject with students achieving well at GCSE and significant numbers choosing to continue their studies at A level. The subject is enriched with trips to places of worship such as St Paul's Cathedral and the Swaminarayan Temple in Neasden and for students in Years 12 and 13 to Rome and Auschwitz. Members were interested to hear about the impact of the introduction of the English Baccalaureate on RE.

#### Religious education in 2013/14

This was a year in which there were many developments in RE that the SACRE needed to consider.

In October Ofsted published a new long report on RE (<a href="http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/surveys-and-good-practice/r/Religious%20education%20-%20realising%20the%20potential.pdf">http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/surveys-and-good-practice/r/Religious%20education%20-%20realising%20the%20potential.pdf</a>). Members were disappointed to see how many issues were those already raised in the 2010 report. Although not necessarily reflecting the situation in Bracknell Forest schools, it nevertheless highlighted a number of issues the SACRE recognised as helpful in developing a plan for future action. The report from the (APPG) on RE (<a href="http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/media/file/APPG">http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/media/file/APPG</a> RE one page summary.pdf ) highlighted challenges relating to initial and ongoing training of teachers in RE. Alert to this the SACRE was pleased that Local Authority had made it possible for primary teachers of RE to attend regular termly meetings led by a RE specialist adviser.

A significant outcome of the APPG report was the publication of two documents one for primary and one for secondary providing guidance for governors on their statutory responsibilities in relation to religious education. The SACRE considered these documents and advised the local authority that they should be made available to all Bracknell Forest schools. In response the Local Authority also provided a training session for governors led by Jo Fageant. The evening was very positively received and many governors acknowledged they had learned much of which they had been previously unaware.

The SACRE considered the curriculum review of RE report (<a href="http://resubjectreview.recouncil.org.uk/re-review-report">http://resubjectreview.recouncil.org.uk/re-review-report</a>) published by the RE Council of England and Wales (REC). Members accepted that they would need to understand the document and be aware of wider responses to it in the RE community in preparation for the next review of the local RE syllabus due in 2017. To support their planning of RE lessons a number of schools have chosen to purchase Jan Lever's *Discovery* resource (<a href="http://www.discoveryschemeofwork.com/">http://www.discoveryschemeofwork.com/</a>) and have found it very helpful. In addition, in July, the Diocese of Oxford published a scheme of work, specifically designed to support the Pan Berkshire syllabus, for Years 1-6. It was made freely available to all Church of England schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement and at a cost of £200 to all other primary schools (<a href="https://www.oxford.anglican.org">www.oxford.anglican.org</a>). A number of Bracknell Forest schools have purchased this and had associated training for staff led by Anne Andrews, an RE Adviser with the Diocese of Oxford.

# Membership of Bracknell Forest Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 2013-2014

Representing	Member	Meetings attended
Group A:	Christian denominations and other religion	ns
Free Churches	John Baildam	3/3
	Ken Blanton	1/3
	Christopher Smith	2/3
Roman Catholic Church	Carol Nicholls	3/3
	Vacancy	
Buddhism	Vacancy	
Hinduism	Vacancy	
Islam	Arfan Rashid	2/3
Judaism	Rabbi Zvi Solomons	0/3
Sikhhism	Vacancy	
Group B:	The Church of England	
	David Fawcett (Chair)	3/3
	Mark Olney	2/3
	Anne Andrews	2/2
	Vacancy	
Group C:	Associations representing teachers	
NASUWT	Vacancy	
NAHT	Vacancy	
ATL	Vacancy	
VOICE	Madeline Driver (Vice Chair)	3/3
NUT	Vacancy	
ASCL	Vacancy	
Group D:	The Local Authority	
	Cllr Andy Blatchford	2/3
	Cllr Gareth Barnard	1/3
	Cllr Dorothy Hayes	2/3
	Cllr Will Davison	3/3
	Cllr Clifton Thompson	2/3
<b>Local Authority Officer:</b>	Mr Martin Surrell	2/3
Professional Adviser:	Ms Jo Fageant	2/3
Clerk:	Ron Schrieber	2/2?
	Priya Patel	1/1?
Also attending:	Frank Reid	1/1
	Lisa Baveystock	1/1

#### RE Learning on the WWW

RE Today & NATRE

Among the most useful resources for busy teachers of RE The Project materials have been developed with these and are the websites and publications offered by RE Today & NATRE (the National Association of teachers of RE). There are packages for individuals or schools, and the websites give access to additional materials and support. depending on the level of the package taken out. The curriculum materials and magazines are published three times a year and cover a wide range of faiths and suggest varied classroom activities. Check out both websites for further information:

www.retoday.org.uk or www.natre.org.uk

Other useful websites:

RE Quest: www.request.org.uk RE Online: www.reonline.org.uk

BBC clips:http://www.bbc.co.uk/education

RECPD directory: <a href="https://www.reqm.org.uk">www.reqm.org.uk</a></a>
<a href="https://www.thedirectory.org.uk/thedirectory/">www.thedirectory.org.uk/thedirectory/</a> pdportal

#### Festivals

Festival dates and details can be found at the following addresses:

www.reonline.org.uk/festivals.php www.culham.info/tvr/festlist.html www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/ www.holidavs.net



These sites have lots of links to others with information about all the religions included and their festivals.

#### National Society Christianity Project

This is an exciting project undertaken by Hazel Henson for The National Society and aims to produce an online resource to support the teaching of Christianity in RE lessons, initially in church schools, but eventually to other schools as well. It is hoped that material will be available later this year.

The rationale for the Project is that all children, of all faiths and none, should be offered the opportunity for a serious engagement with the Christian faith, with no expectation of  $\Diamond$ commitment but learning about and engaging with the faith is necessary especially for children and young people whose only experience of church is through the school. The material is organised round the core theological concepts of Creation, Incarnation and Salvation, which are encountered through the Biblical narrative from Foundation Stage through to Key Stage 3, with other concepts being added at various stages: Gospel, Prophecy, Old (or First) and New Covenant, Fall among others. Woven through each element is the exploration of the expression of belief in worship and discipleship, and at various points how Christian history has been shaped and how the many expressions of Christian community connect with each other and with the central narrative.

The project has clear aims to enhance school RE. The outcomes envisaged include being able to:

Think theologically and explore ultimate questions

- Develop the skills to analyse, interpret and apply the
- Make a well informed response to Christianity

other outcomes in mind.

The theme of Creation for example, carries through each Key Stage with approaches and emphases building on each other, making it easier to identify progression in

Year 1 & 2: the Creation Story; Christians caring for the world: Harvest festival

Year 3 & 4: creation, temptation and Fall: St Columba. living in community with creation

Year 5 & 6: Stewardship, living simply, sharing the world's resources more fairly

Year 7, 8 & 9: Creation and the Big Bang, where do science and religion meet? Creation of human life: when does life begin?

There is a link to the "Believing, Belonging and Behaving" strands of the Pan-Berkshire syllabus, as the project divides into "Biblical Narrative. Church and Christian Living". Key concepts are explored and biblical references are included where appropriate. As soon as these materials are available we hope to be able to run some sessions exploring them and linking them to the Locally Agreed Syllabus. It is hoped that schools will find the material useful in delivering good quality teaching about Christianity, an area of RE OFSTED has identified as requiring improvement.

#### Young Ambassadors for RE

The RE Council champions RE at all levels (from students and teachers, to politicians and policy makers )and their new Young Ambassadors for RE scheme has just launched.

The scheme gives students aged 11 to 18 opportunities to:

- share their enthusiasm and interest for RE and gain leadership experience
- .give their perspective to adults who work to support RE at the highest levels, such as the RE Council and MPs in parliament
- develop skills in communicating successfully to a wide range of audiences
- build up relevant experience for college, UCAS or job applications
- meet and debate with other young people about why RE matters

More information is available at: religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/young-ambassadors



Outstanding RE? Seek National Recognition Investigate the REQM www.regm.org

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



Autumn 2014

#### In this Issue:

Training & CPD opportunities	p1
What does the SACRE do for you?	р2
The National Picture	p2
New Scheme of Work	р3
Local RE Ideas	рЗ
National Society Christianity Project	p4
Resources on the web	p4
Young Ambassadors	p4
REQM	p4

#### Subject Leader Meetings

The next twilight subject leader meeting is on Tuesday 7th October 4:15—5:30 Easthampstead Park Education Centre

The theme is "Big Questions" and Curriculum planning, so we will be looking at how to create enquiry based investigations and how to create an interesting curriculum.

Please book via your school directly with the **Education Centre** 

#### Dates for future meetings:

Tuesday 10th March Tuesday 16th June

Look out for emails with more details nearer the time.

#### Wider CPD opportunities

If you have recently taken on the role of RE subject leader in your primary school, this is the course for

So you're the New(ish) RE Subject leader!

A full day course with opportunities to:

- Explore what is meant by good RE including how it contributes to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Get to grips with the ideas about standards. continuity and progression in the RE curriculum, considering examples of planning and assessment
- Discuss wavs in which you can support and monitor RE in their schools
- Discuss school self-evaluation of RE
- Consider issues of resourcing in RE
- Look at how to write a school RE policy statement

By the end of the course participants will:

- Have a clear understanding of what the role of RE subject leader might entail
- Have explored strategies which will enable them to do the job effectively

Date: 20th November 2014 Venue: Diocesan Church House

North Hinksey Oxford OX2 0NB

Course Leader: Jo Fageant (Diocesan RE Adviser)

9.30am - 3.30pm Time:

Schools in Diocesan Service Cost: Agreement: £80 (+VAT)

Schools not in the Diocesan Service

Agreement: £120 (+VAT)

#### RE Conference 2015



RE Imagining RE Finding New Pathways in RE What could RE in your school look like in 5 years' time? Can you see ways to keep it fresh, make it challenging and rewarding for pupils?

Keeping up to date with developments in RE can be time consuming, so this year we will focus our major training into one full day event. The key note speakers will encourage us to think differently about RE and its relevance in the curriculum; we will share the diocesan vision for RE in our schools and workshops will offer the opportunity to explore some practical applications. giving delegates ideas and materials they can take away and use in the classroom. Each delegate will have a chance to attend two different workshops and there will be something suitable for all ages from EYFS to KS2.

There will be opportunities to network with teachers from other schools, diocesan advisers and those leading the key notes and workshops.

The lovely Oxford Belfry Hotel, in Milton Common, just a few minutes from the M40, will be the venue for this exciting Oxford Diocesan RE conference.

SLA schools £95 Costs: Non-SLA schools £140

These costs include lunch and all course materials.

If you would like to attend either of the above training events please contact: Penny Bingham on 01865 208237 or email penny.bingham@oxford.anglican.org

You can find information about Bracknell Forest SACRE meetings here: http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/ religiouseducationinschools

#### Further CPD Opportunities

The Teach RE Course (http://www.teachre.co.uk/)

If you already teach RE or want to in the future and would like to develop your understanding of the subject further or perhaps refresh your thinking, this course may be just what you need. Perhaps you are considering a Master's degree and would like to ease your way back into selfstudy and research. Or perhaps you would like to explore new ways of applying subject knowledge about world religions and beliefs to classroom practice. You may be a new co-coordinator for RE in a primary school and want to find out more about how to lead the subject. Whatever your professional learning requirements, the Teach RE Course is tailored to your individual needs. It is suitable for primary and secondary colleagues, teachers, TAs and HLTAs, and is run as a distance learning programme. Support is provided by a tutor and a certificate of completion is provided which you can use as part of your CPD portfolio.

Check out details at the Teach RE website.

Have you ever wanted to undertake a developmental project for RE or follow some line of RE related research? It is worth considering applying for a **Farmington Fellowship** if this is the case. Funding is available for your period of study and supply cover for your absence from school. If you are interested you can find details at:

http://www.farmington.ac.uk/fellowships and awards/ fellowships.html

and also read the papers produced by former fellows to give an idea of the range of areas addressed.

#### What does the SACRE do for you?

The twilight sessions for RE subject leaders are actually run by the Bracknell Forest SACRE. There is a session each term, usually at Easthampstead Park Education Centre.

Of the last two sessions one looked at assessment, providing examples of the kinds of activities that would give evidence of pupil performance and progress. Teachers had a chance to work in pairs looking carefully at the current levels and thinking of what pupils need to do to show that they are improving in their RE.

The other session explored ways to use religious artefacts in the classroom. Teachers were given a range of unusual artefacts and had to think about the kinds of questions that these artefacts might provoke. Participants also had the chance to view the wide range of artefacts held by the SACRE for teachers to borrow and create activities that pupils might engage in to make the most of the artefacts. The catalogue containing the list and information about the artefacts should be in all Bracknell Forest schools, but if you cannot find it, it is available to download online at:

http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sacre-artefactscatalogue.pdf

The artefacts available cover the 6 major religions, and include really large items that a school could not afford or have room to store. DO make use of them to help children understand the significance of these religious objects.

The SACRE recently sent out a questionnaire to all primary schools asking about the teaching of RE. Many schools responded and made suggestions about future training needs which the SACRE will endeavour to address. If you have further comments or suggestions, please contact the SACRE. Remember, SACRE meetings are open to the public, so teachers of RE are welcome to attend.

The next SACRE meeting is on Thursday 13th November. Meetings are usually in Easthampstead House in Bracknell town centre and start at 5pm. The agenda is published on Bracknell Forest Website a few weeks beforehand. Check for details if you are interested in attending.

#### NASACRE

What role does the SACRE play more widely?

Bracknell SACRE is part of the National Association of SACREs across the UK. At the annual meeting in May. SACREs were encouraged to raise the profile of RE and to lobby the government for better CPD and initial training for teachers of RE. The AGM, which took place in London, was attended by delegates from all over the country, showing that concerns about the future of RE and collective worship in schools are being taken seriously. Stephen Lloyd, chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on RE, gave the keynote address, making it clear that there are many within parliament who recognise the need for high quality RE in schools. Other speakers threw out the challenge of 20 things a SACRE could do - Bracknell SACRE will be considering carefully which of the actions will form our priorities for the next year. Look out for new initiatives in the coming year.

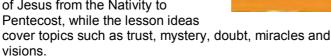
As part of this Bracknell Forest SACRE members met with members from the other 5 Berkshire SACREs to explore the possibility of collaboration across the county. The hope is that some joint projects may be established that will further enhance the quality of RE teaching across Berkshire.

#### Wedbased/CD Rom Resource for KS2

Some of you may have seen in your schools, the book, "The Life of Jesus through the eyes of an artist". This resource is now available from the Diocese of Oxford website with colour pictures, background notes and updated lesson plans. A couple of sample pages will soon

be available to view and download free of charge from the diocesan website and the remaining resources are available on a CD for a charge of £13.99.

The resource contains 22 events from the life of Jesus, illustrated with colour paintings by the artist Paul Forsey. Through the paintings and the notes, opportunity is given to explore the life of Jesus from the Nativity to



The lessons are divided into Lower and Upper Key Stage 2, but are adaptable for younger or older children. The activities are linked to Levels 2 to 4 on the current assessment scale. We hope you will find this reworked version of the book a helpful resource.

Contact: <u>helen,mitchell@oxford,anglican.org</u> or

io.faqeant@oxford.anglican.org

if you would like a copy or more information

#### More resources

From RE Today:

"More than 101 Great Ideas" is one of the latest resources from RE Today services and true to its name it in fact contains 117 different activities designed for the RE classroom. The strategies are suitable for Key Stages 1 to 4 and aim to help support spiritual and moral development. The introduction looks at some key questions for teachers of RE and seeks to address some of the issues around active learning in the subject. The main content of the

book consists of teaching strategies presented in 7 categories such as Acting, Creating, Enquiring and Reflecting, and links these strategies clearly with some very concrete examples of how they may be employed in a classroom. Readers of the termly RE Today publications will recognise many of the strategies and some of the examples, but this book conveniently brings these together in one volume. In

addition, some PDF resources are available to download for those who purchase the book, while photocopy permission is included for the resources. This is a useful, good value resource for busy teachers.

Available from www.retoday.org.uk for around £18

#### Need a Scheme of work?

Struggling to plan an exciting, challenging RE scheme of work that covers all aspects of your syllabus? Look no further than the Diocesan Scheme of Work which exemplifies the enquiry based method for teaching RE. It is free to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement; £200 for all others (with a twilight included!) If you have not seen the email yet, check with your school office.

#### Coverage:

The Scheme of Work covers KS1 & KS2, with enough material for a unit each half term. The long term overview pages for each year group show the questions/topics/concepts that are covered by each of the 36 units and the way in which these are linked to each of the 4 locally agreed syllabuses. Topics and concepts are revisited during the 6 year scheme, giving pupils a chance to explore ideas in greater depth. In accordance with the national guidelines there is an emphasis on Christianity with Judaism covered in KS1 and Hinduism & Sikhism or Islam in KS2. However many of the questions can be adapted to cover other faiths as appropriate to the school setting.

#### Methodology:

Each unit begins with a "Big Question", created by combining elements from the syllabus and allowing children to explore "Learning About" and "Learning from Religion" in every unit.

Each unit consists of an outline plan and a class record sheet containing suggestions for activities that can be used to show pupil achievement and progress. These materials are used together to plan the learning cycle using the Engage, Enquire, Evaluate & Reflect model of teaching. The materials do not have to be used in the order suggested, nor does each section have to be touched on only once, but can be revisited at any point during a unit of work. There should also be scope to leave the plans behind if the pupils' questioning and investigating opens up other interesting avenues for enquiry and in response to special events when they occur (WW1 remembrance for example).

Here are some examples of questions suitable for Y2:

Unit 1: Who should you follow?

Unit 2: Should you wear religious symbols?

Unit 3: Is it important to celebrate the New Year?

Unit 4: Is Easter important for the Church?

Unit 5: Can stories change people?

Unit 6: How should you spend the weekend?

#### Find out more at:

http://www.oxford.anglican.org/religious-education/rescheme-work/

#### Local RE Ideas

While the locally agreed syllabuses cover a wide range of faith issues, there is little actual local colour in them. The Diocese of Oxford covers an area with a wide range of religious history and variety and we have begun to put together a range of RE units that cover some of the local issues.

As in the scheme of work, units begin with a big question. Here are some examples of units we have produced so far:

#### Does Reading need the Abbey?

Is the Reading Hebrew Community a true community? The following two units are particularly suitable for Bracknell Forest:

#### Does a town need more than one church?

This unit explores the differences between denominations and styles of church, encouraging children to look for things that they have in common as well as the features that make them unique.

### Does believing that "All life is sacred" make Newbold a better community?

This unit is still being developed, working in conjunction with Newbold College, but should allow pupils to explore what is meant by "sacred" and the different ways in which Christians live out their faith. Newbold college hope to be able to make their site available for visits in conjunction with this unit. We will update you on the progress of this project.

If you are interested in any of these units, or have ideas for other local religious investigations please contact:

anne.andrews@oxford.anglican.org