

Notice of Meeting

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Group D: Bracknell Forest Education Authority
(Chairman)

Madeline Diver, Group C: Teachers and teachers' representatives (Vice-Chairman)

Ron Bailey, Group A: Free Church representative

Vicki Gibson, Group A: Free Churches

Abi Maclean, Group A: Free Church representative

Robyn Lynch, Group A: Catholic Church

Jo Perrett, Group A: Catholic representative

Dilip Ladwa, Group A: Hindu representative

Rajdip Marok-Dhanju, Group A: Sikh representative

Arfan Rashid, Group A: Islamic representative

Ossie Anderson-Peled, Group A: Jewish representative

Rev Malcolm Chalmers, Group B: Church of England representative

Father David Clues, Group B: Church of England

Rev Carol Dunk, Group B: Church of England representative

Jill Hanson, Group B: Church of England

Clare Hawkins, Group C: Teacher representative

Ruth Jackson, Group C: Teachers representative

Elaine White, Group C: Teacher representative

Deborah Windsor, Group C: Teacher representative

Councillor Ankur Shiv Bhandari, Group D: Bracknell Forest Education Authority

Councillor Alvin Finch, Group D: Bracknell Forest Education Authority

Councillor Mrs Lizzy Gibson, Group D: Bracknell Forest Education Authority

Councillor Mrs Isabel Mattick, Group D: Bracknell Forest Education Authority

Kathy Hadfield, Co-opted Member

Tracey Bradshaw, Local Authority Advisor

Anne Andrews, Oxford Diocese Advisor



Thursday 3 December 2020, 5.00 - 6.00 pm

Online Only

Agenda

Item	Description	Page
1.	Welcome and Apologies for Absence Reporting:	
2.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	3 - 6
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30 September 2020	
3.	Matters Arising	
4.	Membership update Reporting: Lizzie Rich	7 - 10
5.	Annual Report Reporting: Anne Andrews	11 - 16
6.	Budget update	
7.	NASACRE Freedom of Information request Reporting: All to discuss	17 - 18

EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSTRUCTIONS

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8.	Westhill project update Reporting: Anne Andrews	
9.	Forward Plan update Reporting: Madeline Diver	
10.	Any Other Business	
11.	Dates of Future Meetings 17 March 2021	

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Published: 26 November 2020

EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSTRUCTIONS

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**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
30 SEPTEMBER 2020
5.00 - 6.26 PM**



Present:

Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Bracknell Forest Council (Chairman)
Madeline Diver, Associations Representing Teachers (VOICE) (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Ankur Shiv Bhandari
Councillor Alvin Finch
Councillor Mrs Lizzy Gibson
Councillor Mrs Isabel Mattick, Bracknell Forest Council
Rev Malcolm Chalmers, Church of England representative
Vicki Gibson, Free Churches
Kathy Hadfield, Co-opted Member
Jill Hanson, Church of England
Clare Hawkins, Teacher representative
Ruth Jackson, NAHT Headteacher
Dilip Ladwa, Hindu representative
Robyn Lynch, Catholic Church
Rajdip Marok-Dhanju, Sikh representative
Arfan Rashid, Muslim faith
Elaine White, Teacher representative
Deborah Windsor, National Union of Teachers (NUT)
Tracey Bradshaw, School Standards and Effectiveness Partner
Anne Andrews, Oxford Diocese Adviser

Apologies for absence were received from:

Jo Perrett, Catholic representative

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard be elected Chairman for the municipal year 2020/21.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED that Madeline Diver be elected Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2020/21.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2020 were approved as a correct record.

4. Review membership

SACRE welcomed Ossie Anderson-Peled to the meeting as the new proposed Jewish representative, subject to her nomination being formalised.

It was noted that there were nominations outstanding for Free Church and Church of England representatives.

There was one more vacancy for a Teacher representative.

5. **Action / Forward Plan**

Madeline Diver updated members on the Forward Plan progress. A working group had been established to develop the Forward Plan at the last SACRE meeting, and had met several times since.

The Working Group was focussing on the priorities which would produce supporting materials for schools, and support the local area and community involvement, and consult schools on their perception of the syllabus. It was agreed that the priorities around holding schools to account would be put on hold until the next academic year in light of the existing pressures on schools relating to COVID-19.

Faith groups were being asked for their support to provide RE teaching resources and collective worship resources, including digital visits.

SACRE thanked Madeline and the working group for her work on the Forward Plan so far.

6. **Annual Report**

Anne Andrews presented the SACRE Annual Report for 2019/20.

Tracey and Anne agreed to check NASACRE's position on reporting grades in the Annual Report in light of COVID-19 and predicted grades. **(Action: Anne Andrews/Tracey Bradshaw)**

SACRE would sign off the Annual Report at its next meeting.

7. **Budget update**

Tracey Bradshaw advised SACRE on the most recent budget position.

It was noted that Anne had been paid for the previous year, and the Local Authority had bought into the Dioceses' SLA for the upcoming year.

SACRE noted that it was important to consider the forward planning around the Agreed Syllabus and Action Plan.

8. **Update on RE Network meeting**

Anne Andrews updated members on the recent RE Network meeting.

18 teachers had attended, and had considered a KS2 question 'Do worship and prayer make you part of a community?' which had generated interesting conversation in light of current restrictions on corporate worship.

From feedback received, teachers had seemed to find the session useful. It was expected that holding the meeting virtually had helped more people to attend following issues with venues and parking over the last few months.

SACRE queried whether any teachers had felt excluded from the session by the virtual element of the meeting. Tracey agreed to check this in the feedback received. **(Action: Tracey Bradshaw)**

9. **Feedback from LA officer on situation in schools across Bracknell Forest**

Tracey Bradshaw provided an update on the reopening of schools following COVID-19 lockdown.

All schools in the borough had an allocated Standards and Effectiveness Partner (STEP) to provide support from the Local Authority.

All Bracknell Forest schools had reopened, and SACRE commented that this was a testament to the leadership and dedication of school staff. SACRE thanked everyone who taught in schools, and all support staff for their work to keep schools safe.

It was noted that behaviour had been good in general, and schools were working hard to pursue a high standard of behaviour. Schools were working to build resilience in their children and young people around their return to school. Attendance had been generally good.

Schools were working hard to meet the learning needs of their pupils, and to address barriers to learning.

In response to discussion, the following points were noted:

- Schools had got used to the new normal in most cases, and were working closely with Senior Leadership Teams, Governing Bodies and parents to establish a new business as usual.
- Teaching representatives commented on the positive support received from the Local Authority, and that Headteachers had been really grateful.
- It was felt that children had benefited from getting back into structure.
- It was noted that other Berkshire SACREs had established extra support for teachers to prevent isolation and loneliness, and support staff wellbeing. SACRE commented that while this sounded like a good idea, the existing SACRE budget could not support additional support.

10. **Westhill project and SACRE Hub update**

Anne Andrews updated SACRE on the Westhill project and SACRE Hub.

The support notes for the films made using the Westhill bid funding had been produced, and a sample film and support notes had been sent to Truetube. The Hub was waiting to hear back whether Truetube would be happy to host the films and if not, alternative hosting solutions would be sought as the files were too large to email.

The project had been filmed in 4 venues so far, including two questions from each Key Stage posed to at least two different faith representatives each time. Visits to a Gurdwara and Baptist church were planned for the next few weeks.

Anne agreed to send round a sample of the supporting notes to SACRE members.
(Action: Anne Andrews)

SACRE members watched a sample clip of a video filmed in a Hindu temple.

11. **Any Other Business**

Madeline Diver invited all SACRE members to attend the Interfaith Forum's event over Zoom on 12 November 2020, which would discuss how faith views illness and death.

Clare Hawkins advised that she had a Humanist contact who was interested in joining SACRE. It was agreed that SACRE members would meet this person in a private meeting to hear their reasons for wanting to join SACRE, and a decision would be communicated at the next meeting.

12. **Dates of Future Meetings**

3 November 2020

SACRE agreed to hold an additional meeting in December.

CHAIRMAN

**TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
3 DECEMBER 2020**

**APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTEE TO THE BRACKNELL FOREST
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

(Executive Director: Delivery)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To appoint co-optee to the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 That Alan Montgomery, Humanist representative, be appointed as a co-opted SACRE member for the period of one year, to November 2021.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 Alan met with SACRE members in private to discuss his interest in SACRE and what he felt could be added to its membership by including a Humanist representative.

3.2 When they met with Alan, SACRE members agreed that a Humanist voice as a non-voting co-opted member on SACRE could represent those young people with no faith.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 No other nominations have been put forward.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5.1 SACRE has two co-opted member spaces on its membership. Kathy Hadfield, B'ahai faith is current the other co-opted member on SACRE.

5.2 The nominees are aware of the role they will be expected to exercise and have been nominated in view of their relevant experience. It is therefore recommended that they should be appointed to fill the existing vacancies.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 There are no legal considerations associated with the report.

Borough Treasurer

6.2 There are no financial implications.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 The appointment of representatives to the different groups on SACRE aims to ensure that a wide range of views is taken into account within its deliberations.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 None

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

Lizzie Rich, Democratic Services - 01344 352253

lizzie.rich@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Current SACRE membership (new members in bold)

Group A: Christian denominations and other religions	
The Free Churches	3 Vicki Gibson Ron Bailey Abi McLean
The Roman Catholic Church	2 Robyn Lynch Jo Perrett
Hinduism	1 Dilip Ladwa
Islamic	1 Arjan Rashid
Judaism	1 Ossie Anderson-Peled
Buddhism	1 Vacant
Sikhism	1 Rajdip Marok-Dhanju
Subtotal	10

Group B: The Church of England	
The Church of England	4 Malcolm Chalmers David Clues Jill Hanson Carol Dunk
Subtotal	4

Group C: Teachers and Teachers' Representatives	
Subtotal	6 Madeline Diver Clare Hawkins Ruth Jackson Elaine White Deborah Windsor Vacancy

Group D: Bracknell Forest Education Authority	
Bracknell Forest Education Authority	5 Gareth Ankur Alvin Lizzy Isabel
Subtotal	5

Co-opted members	
Co-opted members	(No more than) 2 Kathy Hadfield Alan Montgomery

Total	27
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Annual SACRE Report 2019-20

The SACRE has several aspects to its role. These include:

- ❖ Advising the local authority on matters relating to collective worship and religious education
- ❖ Advising on methods of teaching and resources for religious education
- ❖ Considering requests for determinations from any schools which apply to have daily worship which is other than of a broadly Christian character
- ❖ Identifying and revising an Agreed Syllabus for religious education

In principle, every pupil is entitled to RE of the highest quality... A core duty of the SACRE is to gain an overview of the quality of the RE provision in LA Maintained schools and to develop effective strategies to promote the highest standards." - National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

To help with this endeavour the Bracknell Forest Borough SACRE works with NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs), the Diocese of Oxford and the other Berkshire SACREs.

This report sets out a summary of the work of the Bracknell Forest SACRE over the academic year 2019 - 2020.

The minutes of the meetings which give more detail can be found at

<http://democratic.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=157>

For more information about the role and business of the SACRE please contact:

The Clerk: lizzie.rich@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

The Local Authority Officer: tracey.bradshaw@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Adviser: anne.andrews@oxford.anglican.org 07884 655097

Introduction

Advice Offered

a) Local Authority:

- With a change of LA officer SACRE had again to request that budget and Ofsted reports be made available and this was duly done by the second meeting of the year.
- The LA had been advised of the expectation that RE should be back on schools' curriculum in the new academic year, even with some reductions in the breadth of the RE provided.

b) Schools:

- Support and advice to schools has been offered through the RE Networks and the SACRE newsletter.
- Two of the three planned network meetings took place. The first of the year gave teachers an opportunity to share resources and teaching materials that they found useful, while the second focused on the question of Intent in the RE curriculum and schools were advised that the curriculum for RE needed to be coherent and show the way that units of work linked to each other. The third was going to focus on implementation and impact but did not happen due to Covid-19.
- The SACRE newsletters have offered information on training courses available locally, Ofsted, festivals, Inter-faith week, resources for online teaching and CPD, collective worship and the work of SACRE.

c) Government:

- No correspondence has happened between SACRE and the government.

Standards, quality & provision of RE

a) Public exams:

- No public exams have taken place this year due to the closure of schools from 23rd March – 1st June for all but the vulnerable and children of key workers. Results this year are based on Centre Assessed Grades and so will not be published.

b) Attainment in RE:

- With the majority of pupils working from home in a variety of ways the standards attained in RE will not be measurable.

c) Quality of provision:

- A presentation from one of the secondary schools at the beginning of the academic year demonstrated that RE is being taken more seriously. This was a school where provision had been patchy, but the appointment of a new RE leader was putting the curriculum back where it should be, with RE returning to Y9, and to A level.
- The intention of the school was to raise the profile of RE across the school, and trips were going to be included in the long term planning for the subject.
- While the RE ambassador project had not engaged a wide range of schools, the secondary school already participating in the project had continued to train up and send students to local primary schools. School closures and restrictions means that this project will need to be put on hold for the time being.
- The new Hindu representative on SACRE is keen to work with schools on teaching Hinduism. This will be incorporated into the planning for next academic year.

- d) Withdrawal: No schools have sought support with issues of withdrawal.
- e) Complaints: No complaints have been received by SACRE about either the quality or provision of RE.

Agreed Syllabus

- a) Review: no review is underway currently.
- b) Date of next review
 - Under current legislation the next syllabus review will not take place until 2023

Standard, quality & provision of Collective Worship

- a) Provision and quality:
 - With the changes to school provision during the year it is not possible to know about either the provision or quality of collective worship offered during the pandemic. A survey will be conducted in the new year to find out how schools managed during the summer term
- b) Determinations:
 - No requests for determinations have been received
- c) Complaints:
 - No complaints about collective worship have been received

Management of SACRE

- a) Attendance:
 - Attendance has been much better this year and every meeting has been quorate, and it is more usual for people to give apologies if they are unable to attend. The least well attended meeting was in the fortnight before lockdown and the first online meeting presented some members with technical challenges, but both meetings were still quorate.
- b) Membership and training:
 - Membership has grown over the last year, with new Hindu and Sikh reps, a wider range of teacher representatives and more councillors. Neither the local synagogue nor the Jewish Board of Deputies has been able to put us in contact with a new Jewish faith representative.
 - Chair and vice-chair have remained stable, as has the clerk, but there was yet another change of local authority officer mid-year.
 - New members are sent the handbook for SACRE members, but this year training was amalgamated with the creation of the SACRE development plan, as that established what the role and responsibilities for SACRE would be for the coming three years.
 - This development plan is an exciting new venture for Bracknell Forest SACRE, and the first project being planned will involve school improvement advisors and governors in the collection of data and a pupil survey to inform SACRE of the current state of RE post-Covid-19. The decision to use people who would be visiting schools anyway has been made in order to reduce the number of visitors to school for infection control measures.

- c) Pan-Berkshire SACRE hub
 - Bracknell Forest has continued to work with the other Berkshire SACRES (Reading, West Berkshire, Wokingham, Slough, and Windsor and Maidenhead) as part of the hub. The major project has been the Westhill funded Real People, Real Faith film project. Four of the six planned filming sessions took place in places of worship before lockdown. Teachers interviewed members of the communities using questions from the syllabus. The film maker has made the first cuts available so that three teachers are able to start work producing the first round of notes. TrueTube has been approached as a host and hopefully the films will be available early in the new academic year.
- d) Complaints: SACRE has not had to deal with any complaints

Contribution to Local Authority Wider Agenda

- a) School support:
 - The LA officer attends RE Network meetings to ensure consistency of message and the Forest Learning Alliance will be taking bookings and offering support too.
- b) Links to broader community issues
 - Community cohesion is one of the key community issues in Bracknell Forest and so the key contribution of SACRE here is in the production of the films and the development of the SCARE development plan.
- c) Community Cohesion
 - SACRE members are involved in the inter-faith group and the interfaith group is now a source of faith representatives for SACRE. Closer working between the two groups will lead to better understanding of different faiths.

Summary

After a good start with groups working on the SACRE development plan, the rest of the year has presented challenges, which SACRE members have worked hard to overcome. A working group is taking the development plan and creating an action plan for the new academic year. I am excited that the work undertaken will be game changing for Bracknell SACRE in terms of how well informed we are about what is happening in our schools.

It has been encouraging to see new members from schools and faiths joining SACRE and bringing new enthusiasm with them. The number of councillors involved demonstrates that the Local Authority takes its role in supporting SACRE seriously and the prospect of some joint working on support for schools is exciting.

The films from the Westhill funded project are also a source of encouragement, as they will give teachers and pupils an opportunity to experience more of the diversity and lived reality of a range of faiths. We really hope that it will soon be possible to make the remaining planned films in a Baptist Church and a Gurdwara, as well as exploring wider possibilities.

Anne Andrews (Adviser to SACRE)

SACRE Membership and Attendance 2019-20

Name	Group	13-Nov-19	12-03-20	13-07-20
Vicki Gibson	A – Free Church	P	P	P
Wayne Erasmus	A – Free Church	A	x	x
Vacancy	A – Free Church			
Robyn Lynch	A - Catholic	P	A	A
Jo Perret	A - Catholic	P (observer)	P	x
Arfan Rashid	A - Muslim	P	A	A
Dilip Ladwa	A - Hindu	P	P	P
Rajdip Marok-Dhanju,	A - Sikh		P new	x
Vacancy	A - Buddhist			
Vacancy	A - Judaism			
Adrian Laws	B – C of E	P	A	x
Father David Clues	B – C of E	P	P	A
Rvd Malcolm Chambers	B – C of E	P (observer)	A	A
Jill Hanson	B – C of E	P	A	P
Ruth Jackson	C – Primary HT	A	P	P
Clare Hawkins	C - Secondary	P (observer)	A	A
Deborah Windsor	C – Primary	P	A	P
Elaine White	C - Primary		A	X
Madeline Diver (VC)	C - Voice	P	P	P
Gareth Barnard (C)	D	P	P	P
Isabel Mattick	D	P	P	P
Cllr Bhandari	D	P	A	A
Alvin Finch	D	P	P	P
Lizzie Gibson	D	P	P	P
Kathy Hadfield	Co-Opted	P	A	P
Gary Peterson (19) Tracey Bradshaw (20)	LA officer	P	P	P
Lizzie Rich	Clerk	P	P	P
Anne Andrews	Adviser	P	P	P

Key:

Present	X= no apologies	Apologies given	Vacancy
Left/resigned	Observer	New member	



Please may I request, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) that you supply the following information in relation to the financial year April 2019-April 2020:

1. How much funding was allocated to your local authority in the 'ongoing commitments' category of the CSSB (Central Schools Services Block)
2. How much of the funding specified in (1) above (as a raw figure and a percentage) was allocated to SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) related spending and if relevant to ASC (Agreed Syllabus Conference) related spending?
3. How much money from the CSSB funding for 2019-2020 did you spend on:
 - (a) Democratic services to support SACRE meetings through 2019-2020 (e.g. a clerk)
 - (b) Professional support (A Religious Education specialist advisor or consultant to support the work of SACRE)
 - (c) Support for schools, including CPD and training specifically for Religious Education and or Collective worship
 - (d) Other costs: please specify e.g. for separate clerking costs
4. How much money from other funds outside the CSSB fund (e.g. the community integration fund) was used to support RE in your local authority with schools?
5. When was your last agreed syllabus for RE revised, and how much did it cost to complete this revision? (i.e. to write it, develop it, publish it and launch it including initial training for your schools)
6. How/Where would a member of the public access your Agreed Syllabus for RE?
7. Who is the contact for SACRE business in your LA? (Name and email address)
8. Are there any barriers for providing funding to fulfil your statutory duties in relation to SACRE and/or the Agreed Syllabus Conference that you want to tell us about?
9. Is there anything else you want to tell us?

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