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NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

13 NOVEMBER 2007

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

You are requested to attend a meeting of the above Committee on **13 November 2007 at 5.00 pm** in the Council Chamber, Fourth Floor, Easthampstead House, Bracknell, to transact the business set out in the attached agenda.

Alison Sanders
Director of Corporate Services

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THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
13 November 2007 (5.00 pm)
Council Chamber, Fourth Floor, Easthampstead House, Bracknell.

AGENDA

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8. RESOURCES CENTRE AND ARTEFACTS REPORT (VERBAL)	
9. RAISING THE PROFILE OF SACRE (VERBAL)	
10. PROVISION OF RE TEACHING MATERIALS (VERBAL)	
11. UPDATE ON CURRICULUM MATTERS (VERBAL)	
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Agenda Item 4

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
10 JULY 2007
(5.00pm - 6.25pm)**

Present:- Free Churches:
Revd Michael Bentley
Mrs Paula Ridgeway
Mrs Irene Robinson

Roman Catholic Churches:
Mrs Louise Birley

Other Religions:
Dr Kathy Hadfield
Mr Kusim Trikha

Church of England:
Mr Gordon Anderson (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Maureen Beadsley
Mrs Julie Graham

Bracknell Forest LEA:
Councillor Andy Blatchford
Councillor Trevor Kensall

Observers:
Mr Arfan Rashid
Mr Michael Levin (Minutes 15-18)

In attendance:
Mr Martin Surrell, Senior Advisor, Bracknell Forest Borough Council

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillor S Burrows, Mrs A Gibbons, Councillor Mrs D Hayes, Mrs S Hunt,
Mr C Hickson, Mrs K Nugent and Mrs J Mintern.

15. **Welcome and introductions** [prayer to be led by Felicity Allen]

The Chairman, Gordon Anderson, welcomed all those present to the meeting including Mr Arfan Rashid who was attending as an observer.

16. **Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2007**

The minutes of the SACRE Meeting held on 7 March 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17. **Matters arising**

Minute 3 – Matters Arising – proposal to purchase books.

The meeting was advised that the books and DVDs on Christmas and Christianity and the book and CD entitled “Science and Religion in Schools” had been purchased and were available for loans upon request.

Minute 10 – Wokingham SACRE Induction Training

The SACRE was advised that this training had been far more comprehensive than originally anticipated and the Chairman had materials from it which could be shared by SACRE at a later date.

Minute 13 – Annual SACRE AGM

The meeting was advised that David Fawcett had not attended as he had not been re-elected to retain his LEA place on SACRE. There had therefore not been any attendance from the Bracknell Forest SACRE at this AGM.

18. **SACRE membership**

The meeting was advised that Julie Graham was retiring as both Head of Ascot Heath School and a Church of England representative on SACRE. The Chairman on behalf of everyone present expressed his thanks for Julie's contribution to the work of SACRE and best wishes for the future. The diocese had been approached with regards to a replacement for Julie and agreements reached that David Fawcett would be a good person to nominate for this role. It was agreed that the Chairman may seek written confirmation of this nomination. **(ACTION: Gordon Anderson)**

With regard to the two Co-optee positions, the meeting was advised that there had been a query around the continued SACRE membership of Michael Levin which would be considered further. Gill Ledsham had been experiencing ill health and not attended recent meetings. Arfan Rashid was attending as a potential Co-optee, however the position with regard to the existing Co-optees required clarification as the SACRE constitution currently only allowed for two Co-optees. The possibility of increasing this to three would also be investigated.

(ACTION: Gordon Anderson / Tina Stevenson)

19. **SACRE's budgets: 2006/07 outcome and 2007/08**

2006-07

This budget had been fully spent, as the modest remaining funds had been allocated to the future purchase of artefacts.

2007-08

The allocation was unchanged from the previous year at £3,370. To date funds had been spent on attendance at the Wokingham Induction session (£55) and Berkshire SACREs Conference (amount yet to be established). Also, £85 had been spent on a re-subscription to RE Today. A request for a further subscription was felt to be unnecessary at present, to be reviewed at a later date if required.

20. **Examination statistics for 2005/06**

The meeting considered a tabled paper which provided examination statistics for Religious Studies in Bracknell Forest LEA schools for 2005/06. Overall, just over 1,000 students had attended a Religious Studies course with approximately 75% of these completing the exam. The pass rates at GCSE were very good with 278 of the

287 entrants achieving grades A-G for the full course and 437 of the 458 short course entrants achieving grades A-G. At A Level, 27 of the 35 candidates achieved grade A-C. The meeting agreed that those results reflected the high quality of RE being taught in Bracknell Forest Schools.

21. New Agreed Syllabus

a) Humanism Appendix

The meeting discussed the current situation with regard to the possible Humanism appendix as it did not seem to be progressing at present. It was agreed that this matter be left to be pursued by Jo Fageant with the relevant parties and any progress reported back to a future SACRE meeting.

b) Feedback from Schools

The meeting was advised that the feedback from schools, essentially via the RE Co-ordinator meetings was that the new syllabus was helpful and had encouraged more networking and joint approaches to revising curriculums and scheme of work. It was observed that this feedback was from a primary school perspective and establishing how the secondary schools viewed the curriculum was work yet to be done.

(ACTION: Martin Surrell / Samantha Hunt)

The Chairman advised that he had recently met with Tony Eccleston (Director of Education, Children's Services and Libraries) and Alison Fletcher (Assistant Director of Education, Children's Services and Libraries) to discuss the issues around SACRE access to the information from schools necessary to fulfil its statutory role.

It had been agreed that SACRE continue to use the information and support provided by Senior Advisors in the Education department with ideas for the future to be considered as part of the work involved with regard to the SACRE development plan for 2008.

The Chairman also advised the meeting that there was a possibility of the Borough obtaining professional RE advisory services for the schools, although negotiations were at an early stage.

22. Ofsted Report: 'Making Sense of Religion'

The Chairman advised the meeting of the OFSTED Report: Making Sense of Religion, which was very interesting and relevant to the work of the SACRE. The report was available via the website (reference 070045, published June 2007) and provided a key Church of England perspective in relation to the teaching of religious studies in schools.

23. Resources Centre and Artefacts update

a) Staffing

The meeting was advised that due to staff changes, three staff were now responsible for covering the artefact lending scheme which was available from 4-6pm each day. All staff had been trained to handle the artefacts correctly. The SACRE felt that the introduction of a procedure when receiving returned artefacts

to document their condition and ensure they were kept in good condition and replaced as necessary was very important.

(ACTION: Martin Surrell / Samantha Hunt)

b) Artefacts Usage

A report was tabled which detailed the artefacts loaned to schools from September 2006. The number of loans made was low and the meeting considered possible reasons for this and ways to make better use of the artefacts. Issues highlighted included:

- Many secondary and some primary schools have their own collections of artefacts;
- RE Co-ordinators meetings could be used to highlight the availability and wide range of the artefacts available;
- Investigations be made into the possibility of taking an artefacts display around the schools, although keeping them safe had to be of paramount importance; and
- The need to update the list of places of worship and other useful contacts prepared for the Agreed Syllabus so that there was a central list of people available to talk knowledgeably about the artefacts, as necessary.

c) Internet access

The meeting was assured that the artefacts catalogue was now available on both the BFBC internet and intranet sites.

24. Berkshire SACREs' Conference – Thursday 28 June 2007

The Chairman reported that the Conference had been enjoyable and worthwhile and again had provided materials which would be useful to share with the SACRE at a future date.

Mark Charter of the QCA had been a good key speaker and he had acknowledged the difficulties experienced by SACREs under the OFSTED system of inspection, which were struggling to access the information needed to fulfil their statutory obligations.

25. Raising the profile of SACRE

The meeting agreed that volunteers would be needed to attend the new teaching staff induction sessions on 19 September. Louise Birley and Paula Ridgway volunteered immediately. Full details would be sent to SACRE Members who emailed Martin Surrell (martin.surrell@bracknell-forest.gov.uk) to volunteer.

(ACTION: All / Martin Surrell)

26. Any other business

The issue was raised of the possible purchase of general DVDs about Religious Studies for students to use for their study and research as schools often had insufficient funds to purchase such items. Concerns were expressed that that this was because they were expensive, that it was not the role of SACRE to provide materials for individual schools except in exceptional circumstances, there could be copyright issues and that maybe they could be available via the library service. It was agreed that further investigation and consideration be given to the issues

highlighted before making any decision. (**ACTION: Martin Surrell / Samantha Hunt**)

Rotation of the days on which future meetings are held was requested and agreed to, once the dates currently set had run out.

27. **Dates of future meetings:**

Tuesday 13 November 2007

Tuesday 4 March 2008

Tuesday 10 July 2008

Felicity Allen led a prayer to close the meeting.

CHAIRMAN

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THE COUNCIL
28 November 2007

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) **(Director of Education, Children's Services and Libraries)**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek agreement to advise the Council of a proposed change in the constitution of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), which advises the Council on matters concerned with the provision of religious education and collective worship.
- 1.2 The Council is also required to convene an occasional body to produce and recommend an agreed syllabus for RE called an Agreed Syllabus Conference and the SACRE acts as the Agreed Syllabus conference when required.
- 1.3 The purpose of the change is to bring the membership of the SACRE into line with the range of faiths represented in the Agreed Syllabus.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the revised composition of SACRE attached as appendix A be recommended to the Executive Member for Education and Libraries for adoption.**

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Since 1988 local authorities have had a duty to establish a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Religious education is a statutory part of the basic curriculum for all pupils, but it is not a National Curriculum subject. Instead it is a local responsibility of the local authority through its SACRE.
- 3.2 The SACRE advises the authority on matters relating to collective worship in community schools and on religious education given in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus. The SACRE monitors the effectiveness and appropriateness of the agreed syllabus, which is formally reviewed every five years.
- 3.3 It also publishes support materials, approves a programme of training for teachers and sponsors or supports other projects which it deems to be consistent with its responsibility to promote religious education and spiritual, moral, social and cultural education in schools.
- 3.4 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to establish the SACRE. The local authority will seek nominations for the religious committees or groups from the local church and faith groups, set up elections for the teacher representatives and nominate councillors and officers to represent it on the SACRE.

- 3.5 Who sits on the SACRE is defined in law. Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 provides for two types of Committee Members, namely "representative members" and "co-opted members" with only the former having voting rights. SACRE is made up of four groups:
- **GROUP A**
This is a group of persons to represent such Christian denominations and other religions and denominations as, in the opinion of the Council will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions of the area. The number of persons appointed shall, so far as consistent with the efficient discharge of the group's functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of the religion or denomination in the Borough. The composition of Committee A will vary from SACRE to SACRE as it reflects the variety and numerical representation of the different communities in the locality.
 - **GROUP B**
This is made up of representatives nominated by the local Church of England dioceses.
 - **GROUP C**
The teacher members of the committee are representatives of teacher associations. It is the Local Authority that decides which teacher associations will be represented. They may approach the teacher unions, but it is possible that associations of RE teachers in the local area will be asked to provide a representative.
 - **GROUP D**
It is the Local Authority's responsibility to provide their own representatives for this committee. The authority may wish to have all parties and viewpoints from across the political spectrum represented on the SACRE.
- 3.6 The Local Authority has the responsibility to appoint the members of the four groups (there is also a power to co-opt). Legislation requires the Local Authority to ensure that the composition of Committee A of both the SACRE and the Agreed Syllabus Conference is representative of the local community. However, although the numbers of representatives should reflect the proportionate strengths of denominations or religions in the area, this may be departed from in so far as to do so would be consistent with the efficient discharge of the Group's functions. It has become apparent since the SACRE was first established in 1998 that it is difficult to give adequate representation to all the major faiths. It is therefore proposed to increase the number of representatives in Group A to include one for each of the faiths covered in the Agreed Syllabus. This would increase the size of the group by three members. The Baha'i Faith which has been represented in this group, but is not one of the main religions in the Agreed Syllabus could still be represented through co-opted membership.
- 3.7 The proposed changes should not alter the balance should voting be necessary. On any question to be decided by a SACRE the representative groups each have a single vote. Co-opted members do not have a vote.

3.8 The Local Authority should consult locally before appointments are made. The SACRE itself and representatives of all the faiths referred to have been consulted and there is general support for this approach.

3.9 A revised Membership is attached as Appendix A.

4 ADVICE OF STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

4.1 The legal issues are covered in the report.

Borough Treasurer

4.2 There are no significant financial consequences arising from this proposal.

Impact Assessment

4.3 The impact of these changes will be to secure a better balance in advice on Religious Education.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

4.4 None

Background Papers

None

Contacts for further information

Tony Eccleston	Director of Education, Children's Services and Libraries
01344 354182	
Martin Surrell	Senior Adviser
01344 354033	

APPENDIX A

BRACKNELL FOREST STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

The Authority shall appoint the members of the SACRE (other than co-opted members or any member representing grant maintained schools) so that they shall represent the following groups:

	original	original totals	proposed	proposed totals
Group A				
The Free Churches	3		3	
The Roman Catholic Church	2		2	
Hinduism	two from		1	
Islam	other		1	
Judaism	religions		1	
Buddhism			1	
Sikhism			1	
Baha'i			co-option	
		7		10
Group B				
The Church of England	4		4	
		4		4
Group C				
<i>Associations representing teachers</i>				
NUT	1		1	
NAS/UWT	1		1	
ATL	1		1	
NUT	1		1	
PAT	1		1	
SHA	1		1	
		6		6
Group D				
The Authority	5		5	
		5		5
Co-opted Members				
Not more than	2		2	
		2		2
TOTAL		24		27



**Bracknell Forest
Standing Advisory Council
for
Religious Education
(SACRE)**

Annual Report

2006/2007

BRACKNELL FOREST SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the tenth Annual Report of Bracknell Forest SACRE. The academic year covered by this report has seen a number of changes to membership. We have been very pleased to welcome Felicity Allen as the representative of the NAS/UWT (our first ever) and Martin Surrell, who took the place of Nasir Sabir as the Education Department adviser to SACRE. Following the local political elections Cllr Mrs Jacqui Ryder, Cllr Ian Leake and David Fawcett have been replaced by Cllrs Andy Blatchford, Scott Burrows and Trevor Kensall. Sadly, we had to say farewell to Julie Graham, who retired from her post of Headteacher at the end of the school year. Julie had contributed significantly to the work of this SACRE since the inaugural meeting in 1998, so I take this opportunity to record our grateful thanks and best wishes for her retirement.

Overall the year was one of steady progress and consolidation. The feedback from schools regarding the new Locally Agreed Syllabus continued to be positive. Examination results in RE were generally very good, reflecting the continuing high quality of teaching in Bracknell Forest schools. Selective use of the RE artefacts continued, although SACRE remains concerned over the loss of the Resources Centre support officer, who had monitored carefully the loan system to schools, and the lack of a dedicated replacement member of staff. SACRE is indebted to Sam Hunt for her continuing commitment to ensuring we have a high quality selection of artefacts and an up-to-date catalogue.

The annual Berkshire SACREs' conference in June welcomed Mark Chater from QCA as the speaker. As usual it was efficiently organised by Jo Fageant and those who attended found it an enjoyable and thought-provoking session. Several members also attended a most useful training session organised and led by the Revd Colin James and Jo Fageant. Also under the auspices of training I attended a national conference entitled "Strong SACREs, Good RE", which proved useful, but also focussed attention on the high expectations of QCA and other national bodies, despite the limitations made inevitable for many SACREs by their being essentially voluntary with solely an advisory role and mostly with very modest budgets.

In this context Louise Birley as vice chairman and I made use of the QCA self assessment format for SACREs, the conclusion being that Bracknell Forest SACRE has performed very well. However, it remains a significant challenge to meet SACRE's statutory obligations to monitor RE in schools. After discussions with the education department we have agreed to explore the effectiveness of receiving information from senior advisers as a way in which we can learn what is going on in the schools.

In real terms ethnic diversity in Bracknell Forest borough remains modest, but it was interesting to learn that there are now some 70 different languages spoken by pupils as their first or mother tongue. It has been suggested that SACREs could contribute to the community cohesion agenda, so no doubt we shall be looking at this in the future.

As ever, I remain indebted to all SACRE's members, most of whom regularly attend our termly meetings, for their commitment and enthusiasm, thus making my role both easier and enjoyable. In particular, I have been most grateful for the support and encouragement of Louise Birley in what has been a more difficult year than some.

Gordon Anderson
Chairman
October 2007

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Appendix D Joint SACREs Conference Report

**Council on Religious Education
(SACRE)**

Annual Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Bracknell Forest SACRE has continued to meet regularly each term of the academic year 2006/2007: 14th November 2006, 7th March 2007 and 10th July 2007. All meetings, held at Easthampstead House, have been well attended with representation from the four constituent groups and co-opted members.
- 1.2 Bracknell Forest SACRE Development Plan for the period 2005-2009 has been the key driver for the work of the SACRE. Main elements of the plan can be found in paragraph 5.3.
- 1.3 Working through the self-evaluation proforma provided by Ofsted, the Chair and Vice-Chair judged that, in relation to most duties, the SACRE was fulfilling its role well.
- 1.4 Discussions revealed that several members felt they did not fully understand the nature of RE in schools and the possible distinctions there might be between approaches in community and faith schools. It was acknowledged that is was an area that could be valuably addressed in a future meeting.
- 1.5 Changes in membership of the SACRE outlined in the Chairman's Foreword meant that members had to give some thought to induction training. Thanks were expressed to Nasir Sabir, Councillors Fawcett, Leake and Ryder and Mrs Julie Graham for their commitment and contributions to the work of the SACRE.
- 1.6 The SACRE received and considered articles and papers about RE in order to remain well informed about issues of local and national significance in the subject.

2 Religious Education in Bracknell Forest

2.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus

- 2.1.1 The current locally agreed syllabus for religious education was published and launched in July 2006. At the meeting in November, members of the SACRE reviewed the launch of the syllabus and acknowledged that schools would have a significant amount of work to do before the syllabus was fully implemented. However, it was also recognised that much of what the syllabus requires was already being addressed in many schools and the publication of the new document was an invitation to schools to review, update and be creative with their RE planning.
- 2.1.2 The locally agreed syllabus is available on the Bracknell Forest website.
- 2.1.3 Despite a significant level of negotiation with some members of the Berkshire Humanist Group the hoped-for syllabus appendix on Humanism was not produced. It was acknowledged that schools could find support for teaching about Humanism in publications, specifically designed to support primary and secondary RE courses, from the British Humanist Association.
- 2.1.4 Feedback gleaned from meetings of primary school RE subject leaders indicated that the new syllabus had been positively received and was perceived to be helpful. Its introduction and implementation had encouraged teachers to network and plan

together. No such information about responses from secondary school teachers of RE was available.

2.2 Standards in RE

2.2.1 Key Stages 1-3

Discussions held during the year with officers of the local authority resolved that the SACRE would receive information about the provision of and standards in RE from senior advisers. The monitoring of such information has been identified as a key action in the SACRE development plan.

2.2.2 GCSE

From the start of this academic year it has been a requirement for all students in Key Stage 4 to follow an externally accredited course in religious studies although it is not necessary for them all to be entered for an examination. The possible impact of this feature of the new Bracknell Forest agreed syllabus for religious education on examination entries will not be evident until the summer of 2008.

2.2.3 68% of the Year 11 cohort sat a GCSE examination in religious studies.

Fewer students were entered for a short course GCSE examination in RE than last year but an increased number sat the full course examination although this rise was accounted for only amongst girls. All schools offered examination courses in RE and most (5 out of 6) catered for both full and short course entries.

2.2.4 Almost twice as many girls as boys were entered for full course GCSE religious studies whereas equal numbers of boys and girls were entered for the short course GCSE.

2.2.5 The results of girls sitting full course religious studies in Bracknell Forest schools compared favourably with girls' results nationally although far fewer achieved an A* grade. Boys results in A*-B range of grades in the full course are lower than boys grades nationally. More achieve a grade C than is found in the national figures.

2.2.6 The results of boys and girls sitting short course religious studies in Bracknell Forest schools are not very different from the picture revealed in national statistics except in respect of the A* and A grades where students in Bracknell Forest do not do as well as students nationally. The discrepancy is particularly marked in the A* category. Girls, however, do better than girls nationally in achieving B grades.

2.2.7 Thirty one students, twice as many girls as boys, in three schools took an A level examination in religious studies. 81% achieved a grade in the A-C range.

2.2.8 More detailed information about examination trends and entries can be found in appendix C.

2.3 Methods of Teaching, the choice of teaching materials, teacher training

2.3.1 In-service training has been provided on - **awaiting information**.

2.3.2 The termly meetings with RE Coordinators have - **awaiting information**

2.3.3 Following the launch of the new RE syllabus, a small group of primary teachers developed some medium term plans and was happy to share them with others. The SACRE thanked these teachers for their work in recognition of the substantial contribution it had made to the development of RE in Bracknell Forest.

- 2.3.6 The SACRE has continued to monitor and support the development of the resources and artefacts collection that is kept at the Bracknell Forest Education Centre and loaned out to schools. A small number of new books and other materials have helped to supplement the collection during the year. Monitoring reports revealed that artefacts were being borrowed less frequently than in previous years. Upon investigation it was clear that collections of Sikh and Hindu artefacts were used more than others and the SACRE decided these collections should be expanded. The Buddhist and Muslim collections were used least and members concluded this was probably because these religions were not required areas of study in primary schools. The catalogue of the RE resources has been made available on the Bracknell Forest website and RE subject managers have been reminded about the collection at termly meetings. In addition, at a session provided for teachers new to Bracknell Forest, some members of the SACRE were on hand to introduce them to the RE loan resource collection.
- 2.3.7 Members of the SACRE were involved in training for those members of staff at the Education Centre who would be involved in the loan and return of RE resources. The aim of the training was twofold: to ensure both the proper care of artefacts and the gathering of monitoring information.
- 2.3.8 In association with the Anglican Diocese of Oxford, Bracknell Forest's education department highlights for schools the value of the resources published termly by RE Today and offers a discount subscription rate. An index of the contents of these resources, set out religion by religion and updated termly, is available from Jo Fageant.

2.4 Complaints concerning RE

- 2.4.1 No complaints concerning RE have been referred to SACRE during 2006/2007.

2.5 Other matters

- 2.5.1 No other RE related matters have been referred to SACRE by the Authority during 2006/2007.

3 Collective Worship

3.1 Monitoring Collective Worship

- 3.1.1 No information on the provision and quality of collective worship was passed from local authority advisers to the SACRE for discussion during the academic year 2006/2007.

3.2 Determination

- 3.2.1 Bracknell Forest SACRE has received no applications for determinations during 2006/2007

3.3 Complaints concerning collective worship

- 3.3.1 Bracknell Forest has received no complaints concerning collective worship during 2006/2007

4 Links with other Bodies.

4.1 National

- 4.1.1 Bracknell Forest SACRE has continued its membership of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). Although no one was available to attend the AGM, the Chairman participated in a conference co-hosted by NASACRE and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) entitled 'Strong SACRE, Good RE' and reported back. Members were made aware that a full report on the conference, held in three locations, was available on the QCA website (http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_12797.aspx)

4.2 Local

- 4.2.1 The Chairman attended a half-day session hosted by Wokingham SACRE for five other neighbouring SACREs entitled, 'SACREs whence and wither'. It provided an introduction to the history and roles of SACREs as well as a consideration of the future directions they might take and the challenges they might face.
- 4.2.2 Several members of the SACRE attended a conference established for all the SACREs of the unitary authorities formerly part of Berkshire entitled, 'The future of spirituality, values and RE in a changing curriculum'. Mark Chater from the QCA gave a thought-provoking presentation which stimulated good group discussion. Delegates responded positively to the evening and found it valuable to meet with members of neighbouring SACREs. A full conference report can be found in Appendix D.

5 SACRE arrangements

5.1 Professional and administrative support

- 5.1.1 Bracknell Forest SACRE continues to be served by a Borough Council Committee Administrator. Curriculum support was provided by Nasir Sabir, an adviser from the Children Services Department, until December 2006 when he moved to a new position outside Bracknell Forest. From that time, Martin Surrell has taken on the responsibility of supporting the SACRE. Towards the end of the year, however, negotiations between the Local Authority and the Diocese of Oxford resulted in Jo Fageant (Diocesan RE Adviser) being appointed as a professional adviser to the SACRE. She will attend meetings from the beginning of the academic year 2007/2008.

5.2 Finance

- 5.2.1 The SACRE budget for the period April 2006 to March 2007 was £3,340. The budget for the period April 2007 to March 2008 was £3,370.
- 5.2.2 The primary areas for expenditure for the year have been the expansion and maintenance of the resource and artefact collection, a subscription to the termly mailing from RE Today Services and members' attendance at courses.

5.3 SACRE Development Plan

- Priority 1: To ensure the continued development of an effective and proactive SACRE, offering high quality advice and guidance on religious education and collective worship to Bracknell Forest Borough based on:
- a) a Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education;
 - b) a clear understanding of the statutory requirements for religious education and collective worship;

- c) a thorough knowledge of the quality of provision for religious education and collective worship in Bracknell Forest schools;
- d) an understanding of the needs of Bracknell Forest schools with regard to religious education and collective worship;
- e) a clear understanding of current advice from QCA, DfES, OFSTED and other relevant organisations.

- Priority 2: To ensure a review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education through an Agreed Syllabus Conference and, after appropriate consultation, to recommend publication of a new Locally Agreed Syllabus for implementation from September 2006.
- Priority 3: To provide advice, guidance and resources to assist schools to improve the quality of the provision for:
- a) the teaching and learning of RE in all phases;
 - b) pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
 - c) pupils' preparation for adult life, including education for citizenship and PSHE.
- Priority 4: To monitor and report on the quality of teaching and learning, including the use of resources, in Religious Education in Bracknell Forest schools and to make recommendations to the LA based on those findings.
- Priority 5: To monitor, evaluate and review the work of SACRE and the implementation of the SACRE development plan.

APPENDIX A

BRACKNELL FOREST STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

CONSTITUTION

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is established in accordance with Section 11 of the Education Reform Act 1988 (as amended by Section 255 of the Education Act 1993) by Bracknell Forest Borough Council acting as Local Education Authority.

1. MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

The Authority shall appoint the members of the SACRE (other than co-opted members or any member representing grant maintained schools) so that they shall represent the following groups:

Group A Christian denominations and other religions

The Free Churches	3	
The Roman Catholic Church	2	
Hinduism	}	
Islam	}	
Judaism	}	-- 2 from other religions
Buddhism	}	
Baha'i	}	
		Sub-total 7

<i>Group B The Church of England</i>	4	
		Sub-total 4

Group C Associations representing teachers

NUT	1	
NAS/UWT	1	
ATL	1	
PAT	1	
NAHT	1	
SHA	1	
		Sub-total 6

<i>Group D The Authority</i>	5	
		Sub-total 5

<i>Co-opted members – not more than</i>	2	
		Sub-total 2

Total 24

2. TERMS OF OFFICE

- (i) Members of SACRE shall serve from the date of their appointment until their successors are appointed by the Authority. They shall be eligible for reappointment.
- (ii) Any member who fails to attend three consecutive ordinary meetings of the SACRE other than for a reason approved by the SACRE shall cease to be a member.
- (iii) The validity of the proceedings of the SACRE, or any of its representative groups, shall not be affected by a vacancy in the membership or on the ground that a member does not at the time represent the denomination, religion or association he or she was appointed to represent.

3. DUTIES AND POWERS

- (i) The SACRE shall advise the Authority on such matters connected with religious worship in Bracknell Forest schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the Authority may refer to it or as it may see fit.
- (ii) The SACRE shall, in particular, advise on methods of teaching the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.
- (iii) The SACRE shall, on an application made by a head teacher of any county school after consultation with the governing body, consider whether it is appropriate for the requirement for Christian collective worship to apply in the case of that school, or in the case of any class or description of pupils at that school. The SACRE shall arrive at its decision and communicate it to the head teacher in accordance with the provisions of Section 12 of the Education Reform Act 1988.
- (iv) The representative groups on the SACRE, other than that representing the Authority, may at any time require a review of any Agreed Syllabus for the time being adopted by the Authority.
- (v) The SACRE shall, each year, publish a report on its proceedings and those of its representative groups. The report shall specify any matters on which the SACRE has given advice to the Authority and the reasons for offering the advice.
- (vi) The SACRE shall take any action assigned to it by the Authority in relation to the consideration and disposal of any complaint concerning collective worship or religious education in compliance with Section 23 of the Education reform Act 1988.

4. PROCEDURE

- (i) The SACRE shall elect annually at its first meeting in the academic year, a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from among its members.
- (ii) On any questions to be decided by the SACRE, only the representative groups shall be entitled to vote, and each group shall have a single vote.
- (iii) The SACRE shall regulate its own proceedings and may establish committees for specified purposes. Such committees may include persons who are not themselves members of the SACRE. In any matter, which falls to be decided by the members of any particular category, the members of that category may regulate their own proceedings.

- (iv) The SACRE shall determine the frequency of its own meetings so long as it meets on no fewer than two occasions in any academic year.
- (v) The Clerk to the SACRE shall be the Director of Education of the Authority or his representative.
- (vi) The Director of Education or his representative(s) shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the SACRE and of any committees it may establish and to speak but not to vote.
- (vii) The Authority shall meet the costs of operating the SACRE and any committees it may establish.

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APPENDIX B

BRACKNELL FOREST STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Membership and attendance record for the year 2006/2007

Group A Christian denominations and other religions (Attendance record)

The Free Churches (3)

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|-------|
| a) | Revd Michael Bentley | (2/3) |
| b) | Mrs Paula Ridgway | (3/3) |
| c) | Mrs. Irene Robertson | (2/3) |

The Roman Catholic Church (2)

- | | | |
|----|------------------|-------|
| a) | Ms Louise Birley | (3/3) |
| b) | Mrs Anne Gibbons | (2/3) |

Other religions

- | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|---|-----------------|-------|
| a) | Dr Kathy Hadfield | - | the Bahai Faith | (3/3) |
| b) | Mrs Kusum Trikha | - | The Hindu Faith | (3/3) |

Group B The Church of England

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|-------|
| a) | Mr Gordon Anderson | (3/3) |
| b) | Mrs Maureen Beadsley | (3/3) |
| c) | Mrs Julie Graham | (3/3) |
| d) | Mrs Julie Mintern | (1/3) |

Group C Associations representing teachers (6)

- | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|------------------------------|-------|
| a) | Mrs Samantha Hunt | - | ATL Representative | (1/3) |
| b) | Mrs Kathleen Nugent | - | NAHT Representative | (1/3) |
| c) | Mr Colin Hickson | - | NUT Representative | (1/3) |
| d) | Mrs Felicity Allen | - | NAS/UWT Representative | (2/3) |
| e) | PAT | - | Nomination not yet received. | |
| f) | SHA Representative | - | Nomination not yet received. | |

Group D The Authority (4/1)

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| a) | Mr David Fawcett (to July 07) | (1/2) |
| b) | Councillor Mrs Dorothy Hayes | (1/3) |
| c) | Councillor Ian Leake (to July 07) | (0/2) |
| d) | Councillor Mrs Jacqui Ryder (to July 07) | (0/2) |
| e) | Councillor Cliff Thompson | (2/3) |
| f) | Councillor Scott Burrows (from July 07) | (0/1) |
| g) | Councillor Andy Blatchford (from July 07) | (1/1) |
| h) | Councillor Trevor Kensall (from July 07) | (1/1) |

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| 2 Co-opted members – | Ms Gill Ledsham | (0/3) |
| | Mr Michael Levin (to March 07) | (0/2) |

Meetings were also attended by Tina Stevenson (3) (Borough Council Committee Administrator), Nasir Sabir (1), Roger Theobald (1) and Martin Surrell (1) (Local Authority Advisers) and Mr Arfan Rashid (1) (Muslim visitor).

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APPENDIX C

R.E. GCSE Trends 2002-2007 for all schools in Bracknell - Forest (Numbers and Percentages)

NB. This data includes GCSE results for both Religious Studies and Religious Education GCSEs
Results for 2007 remain provisional until February 2008

ALL PUPILS - R.E. FULL COURSE						
NUMBERS & % ATTAINING						
	No. in Cohort	A*-C	% A*-C	A*-G	% A*-G	U/Absent
2002	146	126	86.3	146	100	0
2003	224	178	79.5	219	97.8	1
2004	222	168	75.8	222	100	0
2005	243	187	76.9	241	99	2
2006	288	217	75.3	279	96.9	10
2007	308	205	66.6	307	99.7	1

BOYS - R.E. FULL COURSE						
NUMBERS & % ATTAINING						
	No. in Cohort	A*-C	% A*-C	A*-G	% A*-G	U/Absent
2002	52	41	98.8	52	100	0
2003	77	55	71	72	93.5	5
2004	83	59	71.1	83	100	0
2005	92	61	66	90	97.8	2
2006	112	67	59.8	105	93.7	8
2007	103	57	55.4	103	100	0

GIRLS - R.E. FULL COURSE						
NUMBERS & % ATTAINING						
	No. in Cohort	A*-C	% A*-C	A*-G	% A*-G	U/Absent
2002	94	85	90.4	94	100	0
2003	147	123	83.7	147	100	0
2004	139	109	78.4	139	100	0
2005	151	126	83.4	151	100	0
2006	176	150	85.2	174	98.9	2
2007	205	148	72.2	204	99.5	1

ALL PUPILS - R.E. SHORT COURSE						
NUMBERS & % ATTAINING						
	No. in Cohort	A*-C	% A*-C	A*-G	% A*-G	U/Absent
2002	508	216	42.5	487	95.9	6
2003	450	190	42.2	433	96.2	17
2004	394	187	47.5	380	96.4	14
2005	388	131	33.8	366	94.3	22
2006	458	183	40	437	95.4	37
2007	394	173	43.9	362	91.9	32

BOYS - R.E. SHORT COURSE						
NUMBERS & % ATTAINING						
	No. in Cohort	A*-C	% A*-C	A*-G	% A*-G	U/Absent
2002	265	89	33.6	254	95.8	11
2003	216	74	34.3	205	94.9	11
2004	208	98	47.1	201	96.6	7
2005	189	44	23.3	174	92.1	15
2006	214	64	29.9	200	93.5	22
2007	199	69	34.7	172	86.4	27

GIRLS - R.E. SHORT COURSE						
NUMBERS & % ATTAINING						
	No. in Cohort	A*-C	% A*-C	A*-G	% A*-G	U/Absent
2002	243	127	52.3	233	95.9	10
2003	234	116	49.6	228	97.4	6
2004	186	89	47.8	179	96.2	7
2005	199	87	43.7	192	96.5	7
2006	244	119	48.8	237	97.1	15
2007	195	104	53.3	190	97.4	5

RE GCE A Level 2007

Entries	A	B	C	D	E	A-C	%A-C	A-E	%A-E
31	3	12	10	5	1	25	80.6%	31	100%

Appendix D

2007 Joint SACREs Conference

The future of spirituality, values and RE in a changing curriculum

Report needs to be inserted.

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**Bracknell Forest Standing Advisory Council
on Religious Education (SACRE)**

Development Plan 2005 - 2009

To be revised Spring 2009

- Priority 1:** To ensure the continued development of an effective and proactive SACRE, offering high quality advice and guidance on religious education and collective worship to Bracknell Forest Borough Council based on:
- a) a Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education;
 - b) a clear understanding of the statutory requirements for religious education and collective worship;
 - c) a thorough knowledge of the quality of provision for religious education and collective worship in Bracknell Forest schools;
 - d) an understanding of the needs of Bracknell Forest schools with regard to religious education and collective worship;
 - e) a clear understanding of current advice from QCA, DfES, OFSTED and other relevant organisations.
- Priority 2:** To ensure a review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education through an Agreed Syllabus Conference and, after appropriate consultation, to recommend publication of a new Locally Agreed Syllabus for implementation from September 2006.
- Priority 3:** To provide advice, guidance and resources to assist schools to improve the quality of the provision for:
- a) the teaching and learning of RE in all phases;
 - b) pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
 - c) pupils' preparation for adult life, including education for citizenship and PSHE.
- Priority 4:** To monitor and report on the quality of teaching and learning, including the use of resources, in Religious Education in Bracknell Forest schools and to make recommendations to the LA based on those findings.
- Priority 5:** To monitor, evaluate and review the work of SACRE and the implementation of the SACRE development plan.

Priority 1: To ensure the continued development of an effective and proactive SACRE, offering high quality advice and guidance on religious education and collective worship to Bracknell Forest Borough Council

Action required	Time scale	Resp	Resources	Success criteria	Evaluation
(a) Programme of SACRE meetings	Nov05 -Jul09	GSA +NS	4 meetings at EP Mansion @ £110 per meeting = £440 8 meetings at nil 12 x 0.25 days @ £250 = £750	Cycle of effective meetings completed	Annual Report
(b) Prepare and have approved SACRE Development Plan	Mar06 and Mar09	GSA +NS	2x 0.5 day @ £250 = £250	High quality development plan agreed by SACRE with clearly identified priorities for action.	Annual Report. EDP progress report
(c) Training programme for members of SACRE, incl. Attendance at conferences	Sep05 -Jul09	All +NS	Annual Unitaries Conference with avg 12 members attending plus NASACRE & QCA AGMs and/or conferences each year. Estimated costs £700 annually	High quality training provided. Confident and well-informed SACRE members	Individual reports and analysis of evaluation forms
(d) Establishment of working groups to make recommendations and offer advice and guidance on a variety of topics as appropriate	Sep05 -Jul09	GSA	Nil	Working groups established. Effective guidance or advice provided to LA	Analysis of school evaluations and comments received

Priority 2: To ensure a review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education through an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) and, after appropriate consultation, to recommend publication of a new Locally Agreed Syllabus for implementation from September 2006

Action required	Time scale	Resp	Resources	Success criteria	Evaluation
(a) Review of Locally Agreed Syllabus	Mar05 -Jun06	GSA	Included in SACRE meetings	Review conducted	Annual Report
(b) Convene ASC meetings to oversee review	Sep05 -Jun06	GSA	Estimate 3 meetings @ £125 per meeting = £375	Meetings held, new Syllabus written and adopted for recommendation to LA	ASC report to SACRE
(c) Draft new Syllabus	Mar05 -Jun06	GSA +NS	Consultant shared with the 5 other Berkshire Unitaries plus funding of supply teacher costs to cover for work group members. Estimated costs £3000	New draft Syllabus available for consultation	
(d) Consultation on draft Syllabus	May – Jun 06	NS	1 day @ £250	Draft Syllabus revised as thought necessary	
(e) SACRE and LA approval of Syllabus	May – Jun 06	GSA	Nil	Executive Member approval given	
(f) Publication and launch of new Syllabus	Jun 06	NS	Printing & distribution costs estimate of £600	New Agreed Syllabus distributed to schools and other parties	Analysis of course evaluations and comments received from schools and other bodies
(g) Launch and training programme for teachers	Jun 06	NS GSA	Share of consultant's Fee £150. Launch costs approx £400.	High quality training provided. Teachers confident with new syllabus and schemes of work	

Priority 3: To provide advice, guidance and resources to assist schools to improve the quality of the provision for:

- a) the teaching and learning of RE in all phases;
- b) pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- c) pupils' preparation for adult life, including education for citizenship and PSHE.

Action required	Time scale	Resp	Resources	Success criteria	Evaluation
(a) Monitor the provision of opportunities for pupils' SMSC development and the implications for RE in Bracknell Forest	Nov05 -Jul09	NS	2 days @ £250 per day = £500 LA school advisers' cooperation	Reports received at SACRE meetings	
(b) Contribute to the preparation of advice and guidance for schools' provision for RE, SMSC, PSHE and Citizenship	Sep05 -Jul09	NS	2 days @ £250 = £500	High quality advice and guidance available to schools	Schools' evaluations and comments
(c) Continue work on Resources, Artefacts and teaching notes	Sep05 -Jul09	All	Included in SACRE meetings. Purchase of artefacts £200 annually or as budget allows	High quality, effective teaching notes and artefacts maintained in good condition	Report to SACRE
(d) Continue to ensure an effective loan system	Sep05 -Jul09	NS	Resource Centre Coordinator 4 days @ £125 per day = £500	Schools continue to make full use of loan system	Reports to SACRE
(e) Utilise the Resource Centre for INSET and RE Subject Leaders' meetings	Sep05 -Jul09	NS	Nil	Successful and well attended INSET meetings held	Reports to SACRE
(f) Update Directories	2007	GSA	Printing & distribution est. £200	Updates distributed to schools	School comments

Priority 4: To monitor and report on the quality of teaching and learning, including the use of resources, in Religious Education in Bracknell Forest schools and to make recommendations to the LA based on those findings.

Action required	Time scale	Resp	Resources	Success criteria	Evaluation
(a) Commission LA Advisers to conduct a review of RE and CW in Bracknell Forest schools	Jan – May08	NS	Allow full academic year following implementation of new Syllabus. 5 days @ £250 per day = £1250	Report and recommendations produced for SACRE	Annual Report
(b) Submit report and recommendations to LA	May08	NS	0.5 days @ £250 = £125	Report submitted	Acceptance of report by SACRE and LA
(c) Monitor condition and use of artefacts and other materials in Resource Centre	Sep05 -Jul09	NS+ RCC	Resource Centre Coordinator 4 days @ £125 per day = £500	Reports submitted to SACRE meetings	Annual Report
(d) Where possible, analyse reports on RE and CW and report main findings	Mar06 -Jul09	NS	4 days @ £250 per day = £1000	Reports submitted to SACRE meetings	Annual Report
(e) Consider new ways in which monitoring may be achieved	Sep05 -Jul09	All	Nil – included in SACRE meetings	Reports or recommendations submitted to SACRE meetings	Annual Report

Priority 5: To monitor, evaluate and review the work of SACRE and the implementation of the SACRE development plan.

Action required	Time scale	Resp	Resources	Success criteria	Evaluation
(a) Prepare SACRE Annual Report	Nov	NS GSA	4 days @ £250 = £1000	High quality report prepared and approved by SACRE	SACRE evaluation
(b) Amend Report as necessary for final approval by SACRE	Nov	NS	4 x 0.25 day @ £250 per day = £250	Report approved	Comments received from QCA or other bodies
(c) Approve Annual Report	Dec	All	Included in SACRE meetings		
(d) Submit Annual Report: i) to BFBC Executive Member for Education ii) to QCA	Dec	NS	4 x 0.125 day @ £250 per day = £125		
(e) Assess the effectiveness of Bracknell Forest SACRE	2008	GSA	Self assessment guidance from Ofsted, NASACRE and others	Satisfactory outcomes	Annual Report

Total Costs over 4 years = £13,065 (£3,270 average per year)
Includes estimated cost of Agreed Syllabus Review £4,775 to be spread over two years' budgets.

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