



NOTICE OF MEETING

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
Wednesday 8 July 2009, 5.00 pm (4.45pm for presentation)
Bedford Room, Education Centre, Easthampstead Park Conference
Centre**

To: The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

ALISON SANDERS
Director of Corporate Services

Note from the Chairman: We shall have some visitors from Garth Hill College, to whom the Bracknell Forest SACRE RE Prize and certificates will be presented before the formal start of our meeting. Your presence by 4.45pm for the presentation will be much appreciated.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 If you hear the alarm, leave the building immediately.
- 2 Follow the green signs.
- 3 Use the stairs not the lifts.
- 4 Do not re-enter the building until told to do so.

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**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
Wednesday 8 July 2009, 5.00 pm
Bedford Room**

AGENDA

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Tuesday 10 November 2009	
Tuesday 10 March 2010	
Wednesday 7 July 2010	

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
10 MARCH 2009
5.00 - 6.25 PM**



Present:

Free Churches:

Irene Robinson

Roman Catholic Churches:

Anne Gibbons

Other Religions:

Dr Katharine Hadfield, Baha'i faith

Arfan Rashid, Islamic faith

Joel Roszykiewicz, Buddhist faith

The Church of England:

Gordon Anderson (Chairman)

Maureen Beadsley

Julie Mintern

Associations Representing Teachers:

Mrs Samantha Hunt, ATL

Bracknell Forest Council

Councillor Mrs Dorothy Hayes

Councillor Cliff Thompson

Observer:

Phra Nicholas Thanissaro

In Attendance:

Jo Fageant, SACRE Associate Advisor

Martin Surrell, Senior Advisor, Social Care and Learning

Priya Patel, Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Brunel-Walker and Leake. Louise Birley, Zvi Solomons, Kusum Trikha and David Fawcett.

88. Welcome and Apologies for Absence (Prayer to be led by Cllr Andy Blatchford)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular Joel Roszykiewicz who was attending the meeting for the first time as the Buddhist faith representative. In addition, the Chairman welcomed Phra Nicholas who was attending the meeting as an observer and would be joining the Surrey SACRE.

89. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 November 2008

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 6 November 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to Irene Robinson's apologies being added.

90. **Matters Arising**

Minute 75: Brakenhale School RE Inspection and Action Plan

It was reported that Brakenhale School had now been through a full inspection and that all statutory requirements had been met by the School. A full inspection report was expected in due course.

Minute 77: Resources Centre and Artefacts Report

It was reported that correspondence had been exchanged with Kathy Winrow at Ranelagh and that members would be kept updated on this.

Minute 85: Religious Education Newsletter

It was reported that this newsletter was now ready to be distributed but that more information was needed on the prize competition before it could be despatched.

91. **SACRE Membership**

The Chairman invited the newly appointed Buddhist representative, Joel Roszykiewicz to introduce himself. Joel stated that he had lived in Bracknell Forest for 20 years, he'd worked at the Dolphin School in Hurst, teaching French and Spanish. He currently worked at LVS, giving talks on the R.E. syllabus to years 7,8 and 9. He had become involved in Buddhism around 7-8 years ago, the organisation he was linked to, had 500 centres across the world and aimed to take the essence of Buddhism and portray it to the world.

The Chairman thanked Joel and noted that the only vacancy yet to be filled was for the Sikh faith

92. **Budget Report for 2008/09 and Budget for 2009/10**

It was reported that spend to date had complied to the overall budget, it had been a low spend year, resulting in an underspend.

The Chairman reported that at a recent meeting of the Schools Forum papers prepared by officers had proposed that the SACRE budget be cut without consulting him. Following consultation, a senior officer had reassured him that a virement would be made from another budget area to reinstate the full SACRE budget (£3,300) if required.

93. **Artefacts Update and Review**

It was reported that there had been a couple hitches with artefact loans but that now the loaning process seemed to be operating smoothly. A process for loaning the artefacts had been drafted. Members would be updated with usage of the artefacts at their next meeting, although the Sikhism and Hinduism artefacts continued to be the most heavily used.

There had been one irreplaceable breakage of an artefact, the Peruvian Flight to Egypt, the school had apologised profusely.

94. **Syllabus Planning Guidance - Jo Fageant**

Jo Fageant reported that she had attended a conference in December on syllabus writing. One of the key points raised at the conference was that it was almost impossible to develop a syllabus that was easily understood by all. There had also been a discussion around the merits of including planning guidance with the syllabus. It was noted that Hampshire uniquely did include planning guidance.

Sam Hunt stated that she felt that planning guidance would be invaluable to R.E. teachers, she regularly met with R.E teachers and it was clear that more support was needed in addition to the syllabus. It was noted that both primary and secondary school R.E teachers would benefit from this.

The draft submitted by Jo Fageant was approved. It was agreed that the planning guidance would be launched at R.E co-ordinators meeting and that this would be followed up by sending the guidance to all schools in the Borough. It would also be included on the Council's website, the R.E Newsletter and would be brought to the attention of school governors through the Bracknell Forest Governor (BFG) newsletter.

95. Bracknell Forest SACRE Prize Competition - Update

None of the members of the working group was in attendance to report on the progress with this work. The Chairman stated that he was not aware of any entries and that he would distribute the poster to all members. It was agreed that the poster would also be added to the R.E. newsletter and the Curriculum Update.

96. NASACRE/Westhill Awards 2009/10 for Young Inter-Faith Projects

The Chairman expressed disappointment that the group had not met to progress this work. It was noted that the deadline was 31 March 09.

97. NASACRE AGM - 4 June 2009 in Birmingham

It was agreed that Julie Mintern would attend the AGM and draft a summary report for members afterwards. If for any reason Julie was unable to attend, Anne Gibbons would attend in her place.

98. Berkshire SACREs' Conference 2009

Jo Fageant reported that the Conference would be held on 25 June 09 at 6pm with the guest speaker at 6.30pm and would be held at Easthampstead Park Conference Centre. The guest speaker secured for the Conference was Delwyn Hunt. The likely cost per delegate would be £22.

One of the ideas for the conference was to cover able, gifted and talented children, as a number of schools were wrestling with this.

The Chairman stated that invitations would be made via e-mail and asked that members get in touch with him if they would like to attend, so that he could monitor numbers. He reminded members that the delegate fee would still be charged in the event of non-attendance.

Jo Fageant confirmed that the Conference would also be opened up to teachers.

99. SACRE Development Plan 2010-2014

It was agreed that Kathy Hadfield and Joel Roszykiewicz would work alongside the Chairman to draft a SACRE Development Plan for 2010-2014. Martin Surrell would assist.

100. Any Other Business

- Members were invited to the SACRE Shabbat on 28 March 09 in Reading. Jo Fageant stated that the community were extremely welcoming but would need prior notice if members wished to attend to ensure security wasn't compromised.
- The Chairman reported that a SACRE discussion forum for the south east region was being proposed and members were asked if they would be interested to participate. Members felt that regular meetings in London would be onerous for most members, the Chairman agreed to respond accordingly.
- The Chairman reported that he had received an information pack on Citizenship which he would be adding to the reference stock of the Resources Centre.
- Jo Fageant asked whether a training course run by Latimer Blaylock on Exploring RE could be advertised to all schools.

101. Dates of Future Meetings

Wednesday 8 July 09
Thursday 5 November 09
Wednesday 10 March 2010
Wednesday 7 July 2010

CHAIRMAN

Agenda Item 8

QCA/DCSF Curriculum Consultation

There are 4 parts to the consultation:

- Non-statutory guidance on religious education
- Primary curriculum
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education
- Level descriptions

New non-statutory guidance on religious education sets out the legal backdrop to RE and what a variety of stakeholders need to know:

- SACREs and local authorities
- School governors and headteachers
- Subject leaders and teachers of RE
- Parents and pupils

Issues:

- There is no change in the law concerning RE or SACRE so this paper is just a mix of updated interpretation and examples of good practice.
- The non-statutory framework for RE (NSNFRE) is still seen as current guidance for RE in relation to this document.
- This document is clear that RE must be part of the curriculum in all maintained schools but it currently makes no reference to how RE fits into the revised primary curriculum. It does mention that there are obvious implications for RE of the introduction of PSHEE and Citizenship into the curriculum. *SACRE might want to consider drawing to the attention of the Local Authority how essential it will be to make clear to schools/teachers ways in which connections can be made between RE and other areas of learning in any training offered in relation to the new curriculum*
- Reflecting other legislative developments and discussion papers 'religion and belief' is now the usual terminology used in this document – highlighting the suggestion within the NSNFRE that secular belief systems might be included within the RE curriculum. *When the syllabus is next reviewed the ASC might want, once again, to pursue the development of material on Humanism.*
- SACREs are seen as a means by which schools can have links with local bodies which can support RE. *Perhaps the SACRE might want to review and update its guidance about this in.*
- RE's contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of young people is set out clearly (though there is very little mention of spiritual development and well being in the primary curriculum document)
- The role of SACRE in relation to community cohesion in general and through RE is highlighted (at 4 levels: school, local community, national and global). *Suggests SACRE should be well informed about religious and ethnic diversity in Bracknell Forest and perhaps devise ways of sharing this with schools to enrich RE possibilities.*
- There is clear guidance on the responsibility of all schools to provide high quality RE and SACRE's responsibility for monitoring RE is highlighted but no guidance is given on how this might be effectively achieved. It is also suggested that school action plans should identify the CPD needs of staff in relation to RE. *If the LA has access to these they could be a very helpful source of information for the SACRE in this regard.*
- Question on p22: 'How far does the SACRE's partnership with the LA enable it to help teachers and schools raise standards in RE and the quality of RE teaching?' *Bracknell Forest has offered regular RE meetings for teachers since the launch of the LAS in summer 2006.*

- There is no more clarity than before (perhaps even less) concerning Humanist membership of SACREs.
- Membership information (p25):
If a SACRE is to be effective, its membership needs to be as inclusive as possible and to reflect the priorities for RE and for education more broadly in the twenty-first century. SACREs are local bodies and so should ensure that the religions and beliefs of the local area are represented. Membership of SACREs must be as required by law, comprising four committees or groups mentioned in Section 5.2 above. A SACRE may also include co-opted members who are not members of any of the four groups although it is often useful to attach, informally, co-opted members to one of the SACRE groups. Members of a group may well wish to take into consideration the views of co-opted members before taking a vote. SACREs should also make sure that their membership reflects, where possible, the breadth of study of religions and beliefs referred to in the non-statutory National Framework for Religious Education (the Framework) thus embodying a commitment to a RE which is inclusive, broad and balanced. It is therefore desirable that membership of a SACRE (through group membership or co-options) should include representatives who reflect both the diversity of religions and beliefs identified within the local agreed syllabus, and local commitment to inter-religious dialogue and community cohesion.
- LAS: should 'provide clear guidance about the process of learning which should underpin effective planning of pupils' learning in RE. *This is something the ASC will need to consider at the next syllabus review. Our syllabus does not currently include planning advice although we have published a supplementary paper on the subject which teachers have welcomed and said is helpful.*
- There is clarification which indicates it is acceptable, as long as the programme of learning from the syllabus is covered, for there to be little RE in some weeks, terms or even years of a key stage – eg GCSE completed by the end of Yr10 and no RE in Yr11.
- It is suggested that bridging units between Yrs 6-7 might be helpful. *Would the SACRE want to look at developing one?*
- In relation to those who might support RE:
Providers hosting such visits are able to obtain the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge. The badge scheme enables schools and other users to more easily identify organizations which offer good quality learning opportunities, but it will also give providers a developmental framework through which to evaluate and develop their own learning provision. Individuals or small teams may also be invited into schools to speak, answer questions or take part in panel discussions. Ideally, community members who take on such roles are those who have some experience of the age group concerned and who can work with the group's teacher to plan a visit which will marry well with the children's programme of learning. They will also need to be reasonably confident about answering questions at a level which children can understand. Visitors should not replace regular teachers of RE. *Might the SACRE want to consider working with communities of faith to advise/train people to support RE in schools?*
- Schools should ensure parents are made aware of their right to withdraw their children from RE. However, some time ago the requirement on schools to include this in their prospectuses was removed. Schools should also ensure that parents wishing to exercise this right are made aware of the objectives and content of RE as well as the fact that their children will encounter and learn about religion in other areas of the curriculum from which they have no right of withdrawal. *This is an issue on which schools often seek clarification. Should the SACRE/LA provide schools with advice about this?*

Primary Curriculum

- There is one very significant issue arising from this draft document from the perspective of RE and that is that there is no mention of RE. This is in line with advice from the DCSF lawyers and is because RE is not part of the National Curriculum (NC) and this is a review of the NC. However, the title does not indicate it is only about the NC. We might want to make strong representation for the idea that RE, albeit always linked with a reminder that this is locally determined and schools should refer to their LAS, should be frequently referenced in the final document. The same view might be taken about mentioning links between RE and the

programmes of learning in some of the six areas of learning. *If this does not happen, the SACRE might want to advise the LA that the importance of RE and its links with other subjects feature in any training provided on the new curriculum design.*

- *There is a non-statutory programme of learning set out for RE. An interesting feature of this is that it sets out recommendations for lower (KS1), middle (Yrs 3 and 4) and later (Yrs 5 and 6) stages of the primary school programme for RE. The ASC will need to take the finalised version into careful consideration when reviewing the syllabus next time. This is likely to mean being more specific about which elements of the KS2 RE curriculum should be addressed in the 'middle' and 'later' stages than is the case in our existing syllabus.*

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

**Three Year Development Plan
2009 - 2012**

SACRE Development Plan Objectives: 2009 – 2012

To be revised Spring 2012

Objective 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 Council based on:

- a) a clear understanding of the statutory requirements for religious education and collective worship;
- b) an understanding of the needs of Bracknell Forest schools with regard to religious education and collective worship;
- c) a clear understanding of current advice from QCA, DCSF, OFSTED and other relevant organizations.

Objective 2:

To ensure the commencement of a review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education through an Agreed Syllabus Conference by mid 2011 and, after appropriate consultation, to recommend its publication and implementation

Objective 3:

To provide advice, guidance and the maintenance of 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 and the promotion of community cohesion.

Objective 4:

To develop an assessment system from available sources in order to monitor and report on the quality of teaching and learning, including the use of resources, in Religious Education in Bracknell Forest schools and, where necessary, to make recommendations to the LAs.

Objective 5:

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

Objective 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 Council

Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Success Criteria
Programme of SACRE meetings	Chairman, Clerk and Adviser	Termly	Clerk and Advisers Appropriate meeting facilities	All meetings held and minutes created
Prepare 3-year Development Plan	Chairman and Working Group	Summer 2012	Adviser and Clerk Appropriate meeting facilities	Plan approved by SACRE
Provide Training opportunities	All	Life of Plan	Allocation of Budget funds	Attendance at AGMs and conferences Written reports to SACRE
Establish Working Groups to develop ideas and make recommendations	SACRE	Life of Plan	SACRE Members and Advisers as required	Reports and recommendations approved by SACRE

Objective 2:

To ensure the commencement of a review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education through an Agreed Syllabus Conference by mid 2011 and, after appropriate consultation, to recommend its publication and implementation.

Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Success Criteria
Review of Locally Agreed Syllabus	Chairman, Advisers, Members	Commence mid-2011	Convene meetings of an Agreed Syllabus Conference. Clerk and Advisers Appropriate meeting facilities	Amendment and acceptance after full consultation with all relevant organizations. Plan approved by SACRE and recommended to the LA. Approval by the LA

Objective 3:

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

Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Success Criteria
Consider reports and initiatives from QCA and other relevant bodies. Make recommendations to the LA	Chairman, Members, Advisers	Termly	Clerk and Advisers Appropriate meeting facilities	Comments recorded in Minutes Correspondence with LA
To develop further understanding of major faiths	All	Life of Plan	Faith representatives, Advisers and external sources	

Objective 4:

To develop an assessment system from available sources in order to monitor and report on the quality of teaching and learning, including the use of resources, in Religious Education in Bracknell Forest schools and, where necessary, to make recommendations to the LA.

Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Success Criteria
Consider reports from school advisers	All	Termly as available	Clerk and Advisers Appropriate meeting facilities	All meetings held and minutes created
Review and analyse examination entries and results	All	Annually	Advisers for preparation Clerk for distribution	Observations recorded in Minutes
Monitor the use of RE artefacts and resources	Adviser and assistant at Teachers' Centre	Annually	Budget provision to maintain and add to collections. Clerical assistance to manage loan system	Regular borrowings

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

Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Success Criteria
Prepare Annual SACRE Report	Chairman and Advisers	For approval at the Autumn Term meeting	Advisers and Clerk	Approval by SACRE and submission to BFC and QCA by specified deadline
Assess the effectiveness of Bracknell Forest SACRE	All	At least once every three years	Self assessment guidance from Ofsted, QCA, NASACRE and others	Satisfactory outcomes

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Total Costs over 4 years = approximately £13,000 (£3,250 average per year).
Includes estimated cost of Agreed Syllabus Review £4,500 to be spread over two years' budgets.

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SEEFF 2009 ELECTION RESULTS
The following have been DULY ELECTED TO THE
FOLLOWING PLACES ON THE BOARD

POSITION	NAME
CHAIR	CHRIS RICH
<i>BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE SUB-REGIONAL AREAS</i>	
Central SRA 1	ALEX GOLDBERG
Central SRA 2	MARGARET HILL
Central SRA 3	FARHANA SEEMA QURESHY
Central SRA representing YOUNG PEOPLE	JONATHAN FROST
<i>Eastern SRA</i>	
Eastern SRA 1	PETER SOUTHCOMBE
Eastern SRA 2	JOHN CUNNINGHAM
Eastern SRA 3	IYAD DAOUD
Eastern SRA representing YOUNG PEOPLE	EVELYN GIRGIS
<i>Thames Valley SRA</i>	
Thames Valley SRA 1	BEDE GERRARD
Thames Valley SRA 2	DAVID SPARROW
Thames Valley SRA 3	ZAFAR ALI
Thames Valley SRA representing YOUNG PEOPLE	COLIN GRIFFITHS

Date: 18 JUNE 2009:

Signed by RAISE Returning Officer: B.Ashley & J.Thompson

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