

Members are asked to arrive for the Syllabus Launch at 4.15pm for a 4.30pm start.



## NOTICE OF MEETING

### Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Thursday 5 July 2012, 5.00 pm

(to be preceded by the Locally Agreed Syllabus Launch at 4.30pm)

Bedford Room, Bedford Room, Education Centre, Easthampstead Park

### To: The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Susan Burrow, The Free Churches  
Paula Ridgway, The Free Churches (Chairman)  
John Baidam, The Free Churches  
Anne Gibbons, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
Carol Nicholls, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
One Vacancy, Hindu Faith  
Joel Roszykiewicz, Buddhist faith  
Rabbi Zvi Solomons, Jewish faith  
Arfan Rashid, Muslim faith  
Ranjit Bilkhu, Sikh Community  
One Vacancy, Church of England  
David Fawcett, Church of England  
Julie Mintern, Church of England  
Mark Olney, Church of England  
Councillor Andy Blatchford, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Mrs Dorothy Hayes MBE, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Peter Heydon, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Clifton Thompson, Bracknell Forest Council  
Felicity Allen, Associations Representing Teachers (NASUWT)  
Madeline Diver, Associations Representing Teachers (VOICE)  
Colin Hickson, Associations Representing Teachers (NUT)  
Samantha Hunt, Associations Representing Teachers (ATL)  
Maria Soulsby, Associations Representing teachers (NAHT)  
One Vacancy, Associations Representing Teachers (ACSL)  
Kathy Hadfield, Co-opted Member  
One Vacancy, Co-opted Member  
**ALISON SANDERS**  
Director of Corporate Services

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If you require further information, please contact: Priya Patel  
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**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**  
**Thursday 5 July 2012, 5.00 pm**  
**Bedford Room, Education Centre, Easthampstead Park**

**AGENDA**

	Page No
1. <b>Welcome (prayer to be led by Kathy Hadfield)</b>	
2. <b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
3. <b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> To approve as a correct record the minutes of the SACRE meeting of held on 8 March 2012.	1 - 4
4. <b>Matters Arising</b>	
5. <b>SACRE Membership</b> An update detailing all outstanding vacancies on SACRE is attached.	5 - 6
6. <b>NASACRE AGM, 23 May 2012</b> Feedback from David Fawcett, following his attendance at the NASACRE AGM on 23 May 2012.	
7. <b>Feedback on New Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE and Training Opportunities</b> Members are asked to feedback any comments on the recently approved Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE and give some consideration to any training opportunities in the next academic year 2012/13.	
8. <b>Agreed Syllabus Conference Draft Minutes</b> Members are asked to note the draft minutes of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 15 May 2012.	7 - 10
9. <b>Feedback from ICAB Hinduism Workshop</b> Feedback from Madeline Diver who attended the Hinduism Workshop, arranged by the Indian Community Association in Bracknell (ICAB).	
10. <b>SACRE Budget 2012/13</b> Martin Surrell to provide a briefing on the SACRE Budget 2012/13.	
11. <b>Any Other Business</b>	
12. <b>Dates of Future Meetings</b> 8 November 2012, Council Chamber 7 March 2013, Council Chamber	

16 May 2013, Council Chamber  
4 July 2013, Education Centre  
7 November 2013, Council Chamber

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**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
8 MARCH 2012  
5.00 - 6.00 PM**



**Present:**

Paula Ridgway, The Free Churches (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair)  
John Baidam, The Free Churches  
Anne Gibbons, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
Carol Nicholls, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
Joel Roszykiewicz, Buddhist faith  
Arfan Rashid, Muslim faith  
David Fawcett, Church of England  
Julie Mintern, Church of England  
Mark Olney, Church of England  
Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Peter Heydon, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Clifton Thompson, Bracknell Forest Council  
Madeline Diver, Associations Representing Teachers (VOICE)  
Kathy Hadfield, Co-opted Member  
Rev Michael Bentley, Co-opted Member

**In Attendance:**

Ms Jo Fageant, Oxford Diocese  
Martin Surrell, Bracknell Forest Council

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Susan Burrow, The Free Churches  
Rabbi Zvi Solomons, Jewish faith  
Councillor Andy Blatchford, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Mrs Dorothy Hayes MBE, Bracknell Forest Council  
Felicity Allen, Associations Representing Teachers (NASUWT)  
Colin Hickson, Associations Representing Teachers (NUT)  
Maria Soulsby, Associations Representing teachers (NAHT)

**15. Welcome (prayer by Madeline Diver)**

The Vice Chairman, Paula Ridgway welcomed all to the meeting and invited Madeline Diver to open the meeting with a prayer.

Madeline Diver read a piece of prose titled 'To Be'.

The Vice-Chairman reported that Gordon Anderson had decided to bring forward his retirement and as a result Paula Ridgway would chair this meeting and the next meeting. The Vice-Chairman asked that Gordon Anderson be thanked for all the work he had undertaken as chairman of SACRE since its inception, he had been an excellent chair and his meticulous eye for detail had defined SACRE and developed SACRE into what was today.

Dr Kathy Hadfield referred members of the Group to a resource that she had found to be particularly useful titled 'Green Spirituality' by Chris Philpott (Author House). It was noted that this material would be a good resource for teaching RE and covered all the major religions.

**16. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**17. SACRE Membership**

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Mr Mark Olney to the meeting, as the newly appointed Church of England representative.

The Clerk reported that all vacancies had now been filled except that of the ASCL representative. Martin Surrell agreed to speak to school colleagues again to see if there was any interest in the vacancy.

**(Action: Martin Surrell)**

Members were asked to consider whether they would like to chair future meetings of SACRE as Paula Ridgway would be standing down from SACRE on 5 July.

It was noted that Colin Hickson would also be resigning from SACRE at the next meeting.

**18. NASACRE News and AGM - 23 May 2012 (London)**

Dr Kathy Hadfield indicated that she would like to attend the NASACRE AGM, if for any reason she was unable to attend, David Fawcett would attend in her place.

Jo Fageant reported that NASACRE was experiencing a difficult period, nationally, increasing numbers of schools had become academies and were then no longer under the auspices of the local authority and SACRE. In some places this had led to a situation whereby a locally agreed syllabus was required by law, however none of the local schools followed it.

NASACRE was currently in the process of creating a leaflet aimed at academies to outline their RE teaching obligations and to suggest to academies that they use the syllabus already in place developed by their local authority.

If schools became academies, they had the opportunity to buy back services from their local authority, however if academies chose not to, they would then also not receive the services of SACRE. This raised the question of sustainability of some SACRE's in the Country. It was noted that Ranelagh Secondary School was now an academy.

It was reported that it would be the decision of governing bodies as to whether they wished to become academies. In Bracknell Forest close relationships existed between schools and the local authority and it was hoped that this would not be lost. There was no directional steer from the Council that schools should become academies.

**19. Syllabus Launch and Joint SACRE's Conference**

Jo Fageant reported that other SACRE's had said that they would like to have a joint syllabus launch and training day for RE teachers instead of a Joint SACRE Conference this year. This would allow teachers to get accustomed to the new syllabus and would hopefully lead to the syllabus being more effectively implemented in schools. SACRE members could then attend the launch and training day.

SACRE members agreed that this would work well. It was agreed that the Training Day would take place prior to the SACRE meeting on 5 July at the Easthampstead Conference Centre, between 1-4.30pm. The SACRE meeting would then begin at 4.30pm and would begin with the syllabus launch.

The format for the training afternoon would be an introduction by Jo Fageant followed by the teachers working in small groups to ensure engagement.

Martin Surrell confirmed that the SACRE budget would be able to accommodate this.

It was noted that there would also be syllabus launches held on 28 and 29 June, in different locations in Berkshire and both events would be open to all SACRE members across the region.

#### 20. **Resources Centre and Artefacts Update**

Martin Surrell reported that since the last meeting two schools had borrowed two collections. There had been a noticeable decline in the use of the artefacts. Schools seemed to be building up their own collections which was a positive development. The Vice-Chairman also suggested that it was very positive to have the collection in the Education Centre, as that meant that all visiting the Centre had a chance to view the display and perhaps even become curious.

It was suggested that the artefacts could be showcased as part of the Launch Event, in addition schools could be approached to write a paragraph about how they found using the artefacts useful and these paragraphs could be displayed at the launch.

The Vice-Chairman stated that there would be a Welcome to Bracknell Forest event in September at the Conference Centre aimed at NQT teachers and in the past, SACRE members attended during the break to welcome the teachers on behalf of SACRE and point out the artefacts collection, she suggested that this practice continue. The date in September was yet to be confirmed by Martin Surrell. Martin confirmed that he had copies of the catalogue of the collection left, which he could make available.

**(Action: Martin Surrell)**

#### 21. **Teaching of R.E - Newspaper Article (Information Item)**

The Vice-Chairman stated that she was heartened to see MP's involvement in safeguarding RE.

#### 22. **Any Other Business**

Mark Olney reported that he had attended a Faith Debate on 22 February arranged by Rebecca Catch and delivered by Richard Dorkin which had been very interesting. The debate included discussion on the place of RE in schools and an academic study which looked at RE teaching. There was also discussion around the fact that less than a £1 per pupil was spent on RE and that schools often tagged RE to the end of their delivery of the curriculum. It had also been noted that specialist places for teacher training for RE had also dropped.

One of the views that arose from the event was that some of the best RE learning came from questioning. It was also felt that there should be a place for assessment around pupils debating, questioning and interacting with one another.

There was a pod cast of the event, which would be sent to the clerk to be circulated to the group.

**(Action: Mark Olney)**

The Committee noted that it was very positive that the Bracknell Forest RE Agreed Syllabus, on which the Conference, would be working was very much based on the use of questions.

**23. Dates of Future Meetings**

5 July 2012, Education Centre, Easthampstead Conference Centre  
8 November 2012, Council Chamber



## **SACRE Membership Update July 2012**

There are currently a number of vacancies that we are working towards filling, as set out below:

- **The Free Churches (Paula Ridgway):** Paula's last meeting today, a Free Churches representative has already been appointed and will attend the November meeting. (Mr Chris Smith)
- **Hindu Faith (Kusum Trikha):** The Indian Community Association in Bracknell (ICAB) have been contacted and will be proposing a representative.
- **Church of England (Gordon Anderson):** I will be contacting the Diocese to seek nominations.
- **Catholic Diocese (Anne Gibbons):** Anne has indicated that she would like to stand down from SACRE as of the July meeting, I will be seeking nominations from the Diocese.
- **Co-opted Member (Rev Michael Bentley):** If members would like to co-opt to this vacancy, they can do so with the agreement of a majority vote of SACRE members.

**Priya Patel, Democratic Services Officer**

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**AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE  
15 MAY 2012  
5.00 - 6.00 PM**

**Present:**

Paula Ridgway, The Free Churches  
John Baidam, The Free Churches  
Anne Gibbons, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
Carol Nicholls, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
Joel Roszykiewicz, Buddhist faith  
David Fawcett, Church of England  
Mark Olney, Church of England  
Councillor Andy Blatchford, Bracknell Forest Council  
Madeline Diver, Associations Representing Teachers (VOICE)

**In Attendance:**

Jo Fageant, Adviser to SACRE

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Susan Burrow, The Free Churches  
Kusum Trikha, Hindu Faith  
Rabbi Zvi Solomons, Jewish faith  
Arfan Rashid, Muslim faith  
Julie Minter, Church of England  
Councillor Mrs Dorothy Hayes MBE, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Peter Heydon, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Clifton Thompson, Bracknell Forest Council  
Colin Hickson, Associations Representing Teachers (NUT)  
Maria Soulsby, Associations Representing teachers (NAHT)  
Kathy Hadfield, Co-opted Member  
Rev Michael Bentley, Co-opted Member

**10. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2012 were agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

*Minute 7:* This was the first meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference and therefore there were not any minutes to be agreed.

*Minute 8:* Last paragraph should state Chairman and not Vice-Chairman.

**11. Basis for An Agreed Syllabus on Religious Education**

When considering the reproduction and launch of the Syllabus SACRE members agreed on the following points:

- Jo Fageant would send costings of using a Graphic Designer to reproduce the Syllabus to Martin Surrell. Costs would be shared with neighbouring local

authorities and therefore may be more cost effective than using in-house printing. Martin Surrell would then make a decision as to whether this is viable or in-house printing would be more cost effective.

**(Action: Jo Fageant/Martin Surrell)**

- West Berkshire had prepared a cover and folder for the last Syllabus, Jo to send costings to Martin. Martin to advise if this is feasible within budget constraints.

**(Action: Jo Fageant/Martin Surrell)**

- Jo would lead the Teacher Training Event on 5 July between 1-4.30pm at the Easthampstead Conference Centre. Martin Surrell would send invites to all Primary RE Co-ordinators and Secondary head teachers. The invite would be extended to teachers outside of Bracknell Forest if there were any spaces left. Martin would send a 'newsflash' email to all RE teaching staff in Bracknell Forest with details of the event.

**(Action: Jo Fageant/Martin Surrell)**

- Jo would send Martin a paragraph describing the Teacher Training Event for inclusion in the invite letters.

**(Action: Jo Fageant)**

- The Teacher Training Event would conclude at 4.30pm and the Syllabus Launch would then take place. Martin would send invitation to the following for the Syllabus Launch:

- Primary Co-ordinators of RE/ Secondary Heads of RE
- The Director of Children, Young People & Learning
- The Executive Member for Children, Young People & Learning
- SACRE Members

**(Action: Martin Surrell)**

- Jo would send the finalised Syllabus and appendices to Martin and Priya to be approved by the Executive Member for Children, Young People & Learning. Priya to circulate finalised appendices to SACRE members.

**(Action: Jo Fageant/ Priya Patel)**

- Jo to send Paula a paragraph around the positive contribution of faith groups to the Syllabus, for inclusion in Paula's introduction.

**(Action: Jo Fageant)**

- Paula would say a few words to introduce the Syllabus Launch.

**(Action: Paula Ridgway)**

- The autumn termly meeting of Primary RE Co-ordinators would provide a good opportunity for Martin and/or Jo to attend and speak to Co-ordinators about the Syllabus. Martin and Jo to liaise to arrange attendance at this meeting.

**(Action: Martin Surrell)**

- In addition, RE Secondary School teachers could be invited to attend the RE Co-ordinators Day. Invite to come from Martin and to include Jo and Sam Hunt.

**(Action: Martin Surrell)**

SACRE Members considered the revised Syllabus:

Jo reported that in order for the Revised Syllabus to be approved, representatives of the four groups on SACRE would need to be present and indicate their unanimous approval of the Syllabus. It was established that representatives of all four groups were present.

Jo reported that the Syllabus was now complete however the appendices were not yet finalised as information from the B'hai faith was still awaited.

- Jo reported that the meeting on 19 March with faith groups had been very positive with some excellent input from faith representatives. In addition, Jo reported that she had been in touch with faith groups following the meeting to obtain explanatory material. The reports of the working groups had been available on the West Berkshire website for a number of weeks allowing all interested parties to comment. Jo stated that appendices would be complete by the end of May and would be sent to SACRE members.

Jo outlined the changes to the Syllabus since SACRE members had seen it at their last meeting:

- Introductory pages 5-7 had been added and pages 10-12 in previous Syllabus had been removed. This made the introduction briefer and more succinct.
- Information around how to use the Key Stage sections had been added.
- Key Stage questions had been unpacked and were smaller more manageable questions and only the emboldened questions were compulsory.

It was noted that the appendices had been agreed by faith groups and were available on the Berkshire West website for members to view. Jo would make some minor amendments before sending the appendices to the clerk to circulate to SACRE members.

**SACRE members unanimously agreed that the revised Syllabus and its corresponding appendices be approved and sent to the Executive Member for Children, Young People & Learning to be approved.**

SACRE members that had attended the faith workshops, stated that they had felt a real sense of achievement from participating in the preparation of the revised Syllabus.

Jo reported that as a result of valuable input from faith groups, the content of the Syllabus was more specialised and authentic. The additional guidance in the Syllabus would also be of benefit to teachers.

The Chairman suggested that at the SACRE meeting in July members could consider how they could continue to support the Syllabus, this could be in terms of creating support material or signposting useful background information, resources and websites.

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