

NOTICE OF MEETING

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Thursday 20 March 2014, 5.00 pm

Council Chamber, Fourth Floor, Easthampstead House, Bracknell

To: The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

David Fawcett, Church of England (Chairman)
John Baildam, The Free Churches
Ken Blanton, The Free Churches
Mr Christopher Smith, The Free Churches
Carol Nicholls, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
One Vacancy, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
One Vacancy, Hindu Faith
Joel Roszykiewicz, Buddhist faith
Rabbi Zvi Solomons, Jewish faith
Arfan Rashid, Muslim faith
One Vacancy, Sikh Community
Mark Olney, Church of England
One Vacancy, Church of England
One Vacancy, Church of England
Councillor Andy Blatchford, Bracknell Forest Council
Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Bracknell Forest Council
Councillor Will Davison, Bracknell Forest Council
Councillor Mrs Dorothy Hayes MBE, Bracknell Forest Council
Councillor Clifton Thompson, Bracknell Forest Council
Felicity Allen, Associations Representing Teachers (NASUWT)
Madeline Diver, Associations Representing Teachers (VOICE)
One Vacancy, Associations Representing Teachers (ASCL)
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
Telephone: 01344 352233
Email: priya.patel@bracknell-forest.gov.uk
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Thursday 20 March 2014, 5.00 pm
Council Chamber, Fourth Floor, Easthampstead House,
Bracknell

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AGENDA

	Page No
1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence	
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the meeting held on 7 November 2013.	1 - 4
3. Matters Arising	
Minute 17: Draft Questionnaire to be circulated to all schools. SACRE is asked to feed in any suggested comments or amendments to Jo Fageant.	5 - 6
4. Examination Results and Curriculum Update	
Martin Surrell to provide an update.	
5. The Artefacts Collection	
Martin Surrell to provide an update.	
6. NASACRE Briefing (March 2014)	
Members to note the attached briefing from NASACRE.	7 - 8
7. NASACRE AGM	
SACRE to agree a member to attend the NASACRE AGM on 22 May 2014.	9 - 14
8. Feedback from RE Subject Leader's Meeting	
Anne Andrews to feedback.	
9. Joint SACRE's Conference	
A discussion around what the Joint SACRE Conference will look like this year.	

10. **SACRE Development Plan**

A discussion around the SACRE's current position and activity for the next financial year.

11. **Any Other Business**

12. **Dates of Future Meetings**

10 July 2014

13 November 2014

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**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
7 NOVEMBER 2013
5.00 - 6.35 PM**



Present:

David Fawcett, Church of England (Chairman)
John Baidam, The Free Churches
Ken Blanton, The Free Churches
Mr Christopher Smith, The Free Churches
Carol Nicholls, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
Arfan Rashid, Muslim faith
David Fawcett, Church of England (Chairman)
Mark Olney, Church of England
Councillor Andy Blatchford, Bracknell Forest Council
Councillor Will Davison, Bracknell Forest Council
Councillor Mrs Dorothy Hayes MBE, Bracknell Forest Council
Councillor Clifton Thompson, Bracknell Forest Council
Madeline Diver, Associations Representing Teachers (VOICE)
Kathy Hadfield, Co-opted Member

In Attendance:

Jo Fageant, SACRE Adviser
Martin Surrell, Senior Adviser
Frank Reid, British Humanist Association

Apologies for absence were received from:

Rabbi Zvi Solomons, Jewish faith

12. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13. Matters Arising

Minute 5: It was reported that the recent meeting for R.E co-ordinators had been well attended.

Minute 7: It was noted that the Head of R.E had been contacted at Edgbarrow School and it was hoped to arrange for some Edgbarrow pupils to attend the summer meeting of SACRE.

14. Report on the Royal Maundy Service

SACRE members had an opportunity to see the Maundy money for 2013. The Chairman reported that Maundy money was distributed by the Queen on the Thursday before Good Friday each year.

15. Representative from the Humanist Association

Mr Frank Reid was welcomed by the Chairman and invited to address the Group.

Mr Frank Reid stated that he wanted the Group to understand his background and the reasons as to why he became a Humanist and the qualities that he felt he could offer to the Group, if he were to become a member of the Group.

He made the following points:

- He had been raised as a Catholic and had a very strict upbringing. He had attended a Catholic primary and secondary school and his life had revolved around church throughout his youth. There were a number of aspects of Catholicism that he felt at odds with at this time.
- His first serious girlfriend was of the Church of England faith and he found this to be much broader than Catholicism. He was then introduced to the concept of atheism and later Humanism.
- Humanism was morality without the supernatural, living life using ethics and philosophy as guidance and learning how to get along with people as best you can. He became a member of the British Humanist Association and was informed of the vacancy that existed on the Bracknell Forest SACRE. He had attended other SACRE's and was inspired by the members of these groups and their tolerance.
- He stated that 50% of people were now not religious; Humanists often bonded with religious representatives of SACRE as they shared ethics and philosophy but just didn't share a belief in god.
- He felt a Humanist representative could offer a non religious perspective and their philosophical and ethical beliefs.

The chairman thanked Mr Reid for his attendance and presentation and stated that SACRE would contact him with regard to membership of the Group.

Following discussion, the Group agreed to write to Mr Reid to thank him for his attendance at the meeting but to inform him that the Group did not wish to co-opt a Humanist representative at this time.

(Action: Martin Surrell)

16. Provisional Examination Results

The Group considered provisional examination results for 2013-14 and noted that performance was very similar to last academic year and this was pleasing.

17. Press Release: More than half of schools found to be failing pupils on religious education

It was reported that the biggest weakness of R.E was the lack of specialist R.E teachers in the lower secondary years. Nationally, evidence showed that teachers lacked confidence and subject knowledge. Structures in schools that enabled teachers to teach R.E were also important.

It was noted that most primary schools did not have specialist teachers and that R.E subject leaders often changed and so a build up of expertise wasn't developed.

The Group felt that an audit of local secondary schools and how R.E was taught in each school would be useful across the Borough. The Group could then consider any disparities in teaching across schools. It would also be valuable at this point to ask

primary school teachers to comment on how they felt the locally agreed syllabus had bedded in to their schools.

It was agreed that a questionnaire would be sent to all schools to ask about their R.E provision and for primary schools how the locally agreed syllabus had bedded in.

(Action: Jo Fageant)

18. Case Study: Effective religious education and interfaith dialogue: Redbridge Ambassadors of Faith and Belief (AFaB)

The Group considered the case study but noted that Bracknell Forest did not have the same level of diversity as Redbridge and as a result the project would not be as relevant.

19. Religious Education: Realising the Potential

This item was considered in conjunction with Minute 17.

20. Locally Agreed Syllabus and Related Training

It was reported that the group of primary teachers that had attended the recent training session were very enthused by the session. The session provided the opportunity to consider religion in their local area and local religious history and to use this to enrich learning in the classroom.

In terms of potential leaders, Ann Andrews and Kate Reece were suggested.

Jo Fageant reported that the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Council were offering a joint primary and secondary training day to teachers on 31 May 2013. It was anticipated that there would be enough primary representatives but not secondary and these places could be made available to Bracknell Forest teachers.

21. Any Other Business

- **Religious Education Council's Revised Guidance on the R.E Curriculum**
It was reported that this was non-statutory guidance which attempted to address issues raised by the recent Ofsted report.

When SACRE undertook its next review of the syllabus this guidance was likely to be very influential. It would now be the core document referred to, for all future developments in R.E and as a result SACRE members needed to be mindful of it.

It was reported that the guidance was quite a flexible document and open to a wide range of interpretation. One of the key differences between this guidance and the syllabus that Bracknell Forest currently had in place was that the guidance didn't include the eight level scale, which measured children's progress. It was not clear what the eight level scale had been replaced with.

The guidance had been launched on 25 October 2013 in the House of Lords and was currently being discussed in various venues across the country.

- **Responsibilities of Governors for R.E in their Schools**

It was reported that these papers had emerged from an all party working group and could be used as the basis of a meeting with governors that was scheduled to take place early in the summer term.

- **Annual SACRE Report 2012-13**

This report would be finalised by Jo Fageant and then sent to all schools and NASACRE with a letter from the Chairman and would be available on the Council's website.

(Action: Martin Surrell/Priya Patel)

It was noted that membership of the Group needed to be checked and updated where necessary.

(Action: Priya Patel)

- **Religion and Belief, Discrimination and Equality Research Project (Derby University)**

Madeline Diver reported that she had participated in the project and would share the findings with the Group. She stated that it was encouraging to see that discrimination had reduced in comparison to ten years ago. It was agreed that the project findings would be emailed to the Group and added to the Council's website.

(Action: Priya Patel)

- **Interfaith Week – November 2013**

Flyer to be circulated to the Group.

(Action: Priya Patel)

- **Accord Inclusivity Award 2014**

The Group felt that as Bracknell Forest did not have a high level of diversity, this award should not be pursued.

- **NASACRE Newsletter**

It was reported that the links in this newsletter led to some interesting documents.

22. **Dates of Future Meetings**

20 March 2014

10 July 2014 (Education Centre)

13 November 2014

Agenda Item 3

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Questionnaire about RE in Bracknell Forest Primary Schools.

Name of the school:

Name of the RE subject leader:

Email address of the RE subject leader:

How long have you been RE subject leader?

How is RE taught in your school – please tick all the boxes that are appropriate:

By class teachers

☐

By teachers covering PPA

☐

By TAs covering PPA

☐

As a discrete subject

☐

Within cross curricular topics

☐

A mix of approaches

☐

Each week

☐

In blocks of time across the year

☐

A new RE syllabus was introduced in Bracknell Forest in 2012. What training have staff attended/received since then:

The SACRE would like to know how the syllabus is working in schools. Please summarise the responses of staff in your school:

What is going well?

What are the main challenges?

Are there any significant resources the school uses to support RE

One of SACRE's main roles is to support RE in Bracknell Forest schools. Please set out any suggestions you have for ways in which the SACRE could help you continue to develop RE in your school.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please return it to ???

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National Association of
Standing Advisory Councils
on Religious Education

SACRE BRIEFING

Special update 2

March 2014

Important new teacher group

**NASACRE Exec apologises for this second update:
the document link was incorrect.**

**Please forward this information to teachers serving on
your SACRE.**

Deadline for applications: midday on Tuesday 11th March

Please forward this information to teachers serving on your SACRE.

Deadline for applications: midday on Tuesday 11th March

This information can also be found the [NASACRE website](#).

NASACRE has been invited by the Religious Education Council to encourage teachers to apply to join an important teacher group that will undertake some national development work for RE. [This letter](#) is an invitation to teachers to express an interest in becoming a member of one of the working parties which will feed into the DfE Expert Advisory Group (EAG) for RE led by the RE Council. Similar groups have already been set up by the DfE to implement the revised national curriculum and the RE group will have the same kind of task, with the difference that it will build on the new national framework from the RE Review, whilst also making its work relevant to locally agreed, diocesan, academy and other syllabuses for the subject.

If you are a teacher serving on a SACRE, this could be the role for you and will be an excellent opportunity for you to engage in vitally important RE work, as well as providing you with some incredibly valuable opportunities for professional development.

Latest news and updates from NASACRE

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SACRE BRIEFING

Issue: 2

NASACRE Executive would like to take this opportunity to wish SACREs a very Happy New Year. We look forward to continuing to support you in your work.

***SACRE BRIEFING** is issued at the beginning of every half term and provides updates, briefing notes and links.*

To access certain links in this newsletter, you will need to be logged in to the NASACRE website. Log in information was sent to Officers of your SACRE in September. Please contact them if you require these details.

AGM 2014

Location: London

Venue: Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

Date: May 22nd 2014

Time: 10:00-3:30

Theme: *RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE*

Keynote speaker: Mr Stephen Lloyd, MP. Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on RE

Many were impressed and stirred by Mark Chater's erudite [challenges to SACREs](#) at last year's AGM. This year's AGM will be looking at the state of play in RE and education more generally from the perspective of Stephen Lloyd, Chair of the APPG and John Keast, who will then be the retired Chair of the REC and will provide his frank and perceptive overview to end proceedings.

Sandwiched between these two keynotes, we want to showcase the work of SACREs in rising to some of the challenges raised. We would like to have about 4-6 brief presentations by SACREs on work they are doing in any of the following areas, that show innovation, engagement and challenge:

1. Work to support teachers to provide meaningful and challenging RE
2. Involving wider representation
(faith/belief/universities/academies)
3. Pupil/student involvement
4. Meeting the challenges of the new curriculum settlement

We know there is really good work going on and this needs to be shared, so please volunteer to do so at the AGM by emailing Bill Moore (bmoore@learningtrust.net) by **March 31st 2014**. Simply send in your SACRE name, a contact, which of the above areas you are addressing and a brief outline of what you are doing.

Further information and details about how to book will follow in the next issue.

Your next SACRE agenda

A brief summary about the latest items to be added to the "[Your next agenda](#)" section of the website.

Click on any of the orange links to find out more.

Farmington Fellowships

Farmington Fellowships are for all those in the UK teaching RE (with at least two years teaching experience in their present post) and also for headteachers wishing to research into either RE or Values Education are also eligible to apply. Click [here](#) for more information. The **closing date** for applications is January 27th.

Ofsted: Releasing the potential

Information about latest religious education report from Ofsted which was released on October 6th.

In response, NASACRE released a [press statement](#).

RE Review Report

The RE Review report is now published. It has been produced by the RE Council in consultation with a wide variety of RE professional organisations and individuals, as well as members of the public.

From the link, you will find further information about the report and links to the full report and a summary.

In addition, NASACRE has produced a briefing paper to support SACREs with the non-statutory guidance and the writing of an agreed syllabus.

A Practice Code for Teachers of RE

Drawn up by an RE Council working group with representation from NATRE, AREIAC, NASACRE, this code aims to complement the GTCE's general code for teachers.

School Governors: responsibilities for RE

Two briefing papers (primary and secondary) produced for governors by Dr Barbara Wintersgill. These outline schools' responsibilities with regard to RE, give an overview of the problems identified by the report **RE: The Truth Unmasked** published in March and suggest some actions governors might undertake to bring about improvement in their schools.

ARE YOUR SACRE's DETAILS CORRECT AND UP TO DATE?

Click [here](#) to check.

Click [here](#) to email new details.

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

The **FAQ section** of the website is frequently reviewed and updated. It is worthwhile re-visiting **this section** from time to time.

A new sub-section: **SACRES and religious clothing in schools** has just been added.

Inter Faith Week 2013

Sharing experiences

Colleagues at Inter Faith Week are keen to draw on experiences to help

them continue to develop the Week and increase opportunities for inter faith learning and cooperation.

Please consider completing the brief questionnaire on the [Interfaith Week website](#).

SACRE Annual Reports

Thank you to those SACREs who have already submitted [reports](#) for the year 2012-13.

Please email your SACRE report as **one** document in **PDF format** to: memsec@nasacre.org.uk

Holocaust Memorial Day 2014

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is commemorated on 27 January every year, this being the date of the liberation of Auschwitz. (You may wish to be thinking even further ahead to 2015 which will be the 70th anniversary of this event). The theme for HMD 2014 is Journeys and how journeys themselves can become part of genocide.

There are a huge number of resources including available on [Holocaust Memorial Day Trust](#) website.

SACREs should have already received information about the art competition [Drawing Inspiration](#). Closing date for entries is 12th January.
