



## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

### **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

**Thursday 3 March 2016, 5.00 pm**

**Function Room, Fifth Floor, Easthampstead House, Town Square,  
Bracknell**

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

David Fawcett, Church of England (Chairman)  
Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Bracknell Forest Council  
Ken Blanton, The Free Churches  
Rev Jackie Case, Free Churches - Methodist  
Rev Paul Collins, Church of England  
Chris Cooper, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
Madeline Diver, Associations Representing Teachers (VOICE)  
Councillor Ms Moira Gaw, Bracknell Forest Council  
Kathy Hadfield, Co-opted Member  
Councillor Mrs Dorothy Hayes MBE, Bracknell Forest Council  
Manfred Lemke, The Free Churches  
Carol Logan, Church of England  
Councillor Mrs Isabel Mattick, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Ms Ash Merry, Bracknell Forest Council  
Mark Olney, Church of England  
Arfan Rashid, Muslim faith  
Steve Rollins, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
Rabbi Zvi Solomons, Jewish faith

**ALISON SANDERS**  
Director of Corporate Services

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**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**  
**Thursday 3 March 2016, 5.00 pm**  
**Function Room, Fifth Floor, Easthampstead House, Town**  
**Square, Bracknell**

Sound recording, photographing, filming and use of social media at meetings which are held in public are permitted. Those wishing to record proceedings at a meeting are however advised to contact the Democratic Services Officer named as the contact for further information on the front of this agenda as early as possible before the start of the meeting so that any special arrangements can be made.

**AGENDA**

|  | Page No |
|--|---------|
| 1. <b>Welcome and Apologies for Absence</b>  |         |
| 2. <b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>  |         |
| To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 November 2015. | 3 - 8   |
| 3. <b>Pan-Berkshire hub</b>  | 9 - 16  |
| 4. <b>British Values Conference</b>  | 17 - 18 |
| 5. <b>Teacher Training</b>   |         |
| 6. <b>SACRE Newsletter</b>   |         |
| 7. <b>NASACRE briefing</b>   |         |
| 8. <b>New GCSE</b>   |         |
| 9. <b>Any interfaith matters</b>   |         |
| 10. <b>The Toolkit</b>   |         |
| 11. <b>Any Other Business</b>  |         |
| 12. <b>Dates of Future Meetings</b>  |         |
| 23 July 2016, Boardroom, Easthampstead House   |         |

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
12 NOVEMBER 2015  
5.00 - 6.21 PM**



**Present:**

David Fawcett, Church of England (Chairman)  
Rev Jackie Case, Free Churches - Methodist  
Chris Cooper, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
Madeline Diver, Associations Representing Teachers (VOICE)  
Councillor Ms Moira Gaw, Bracknell Forest Council  
Manfred Lemke, The Free Churches  
Carol Logan, Church of England  
Mark Olney, Church of England

**In Attendance:**

Anne Andrews, Oxford Diocese Adviser  
Chris Salt

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Rev Paul Collins, Church of England  
Kathy Hadfield, Co-opted Member  
Councillor Mrs Dorothy Hayes MBE, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Mrs Isabel Mattick, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Ms Ash Merry, Bracknell Forest Council  
Steve Rollins, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

**82. Election of Chairman**

On the nomination of Madeline Diver, seconded by Mark Olney, David Fawcett was elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

**83. Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

On the nomination of the Chairman, seconded by Mark Olney, Madeline Diver was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

**84. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 July 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**85. Matters Arising**

Minute 70 – no further action had been taken on the proposed letter to schools regarding responses to the Collective Worship Survey, as this had been overtaken by events as summarised in paragraph 4 of the Annual Report (see agenda item 6 below).

Minute 70 – Madeline Diver reported that she was still seeking further information about the teaching syllabus of the Social and Cultural Association of Dastyar.

Minute 73 – The discussion support pamphlet produced for ‘Meeting the Challenge’ following the keynote speech at the NASACRE AGM in May was available on the NASACRE website, to which all members had access. It was agreed that a copy of the discussion pamphlet should be circulated to members.

**(Action: Anne Andrews)**

#### 86. **Annual SACRE Report 2014-5**

The Committee considered the Annual SACRE Report 2014-15. Anne Andrews explained that the report had been drafted in a different format this year, to conform to new guidelines issued by NASACRE. The report comprised a number of sections, including most notably:

- Introduction (by the Chairman)
- Standards, quality and provision of RE
- Standard, quality and provision of Collective Worship
- Advice and training offered to LA, schools & governors
- Management of SACRE
- Bracknell Forest GCSE Religious Education results 2012 - 2014

Further reference was made to the disappointing response to the Collective Worship survey undertaken in January 2015, but it was noted that this reflected the position across the country and was not peculiar to Bracknell.

Anne Andrews indicated that she would be offering further training sessions for teachers on British Values and RE, subject to confirmation from Bracknell Forest Council.

It was noted that the exam results section would be updated to take in the latest figures available, including other key stage results.

The Committee endorsed the draft Annual Report for finalisation and submission to NASACRE.

**(Action: Anne Andrews / Chris Salt)**

#### 87. **SACRE Development Plan**

The Committee considered a draft SACRE Development Plan for 2015 – 2017. Anne Andrews indicated that the draft was based on the previous Plan with some minor additions or updates.

The Committee worked through the Development Plan point by point and the following issues were raised:

- (1) For the newsletter issued to SACRE and schools, it was suggested this should comprise two sections, one related to Religious Education and one about Collective Worship. It was usually distributed by via email to all schools using the Bracknell Forest database of addressees. Anne Andrews also distributed copies direct to the RE teachers she had contact details for. In order to ensure the newsletter reached the right people, it was suggested that it should include guidance as to who copies should be passed to in each school.

- (2) With regard to ensuring members were well informed about SACRE matters, it was noted that some newer members had not received a copy of the locally agreed syllabus. Although this was available to view on the Council's website, some members expressed a preference for a hard copy and Chris Salt agreed to bring some copies to the next meeting.
- (3) In relation to the pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub, Anne Andrews circulated a paper about how this could be developed and the way in which this could be progressed. This would entail setting up a joint meeting of all 6 Chairs of the Berkshire SACREs to agree a strategy and work plan, with costings and timing. The Committee endorsed the concept of developing the pan-Berkshire Hub and agreed that the Chairman should request the Council to provide funding estimated at £950 per annum. This would cover the Bracknell share of the cost of a Hub Manager (2-3 days per term @ £500 per day) and for Directory Development (teacher time funded @ £200 per day for 6 days).
- (4) The Hub was currently producing some materials and resources and the Committee agreed that these should be shared on the SACRE web pages, the Diocesan website and the Discovery website.
- (5) With regard to 'Enabling an event for pupils', it was suggested this should be borne in mind for the future.
- (6) Before devising a new RE competition for schools, it was suggested it would be worth seeing whether this could be built on to work already being carried out. Mark Olney undertook to look into what primary schools were currently doing in this respect and report to the next meeting.
- (7) Some amendment to the draft plan was necessary where some duplication had occurred.

The Committee endorsed the Development Plan to guide its work over the period 2015 – 2017.

**(Action: Anne Andrews  
Chris Salt  
David Fawcett  
Mark Olney)**

## 88. SACRE Reporting and Evaluating Toolkit

The Committee received a copy of the SACRE RETool: Reporting and Evaluation Toolkit. The Toolkit highlighted five key dimensions of a SACRE's work and provided an exemplification of good practice. The five dimensions were:

1. promoting improvement in the standards, the quality of teaching, and provision in RE
2. evaluating the effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus
3. promoting improvement in the provision and quality of collective worship
4. managing the SACRE and building the partnership between the SACRE, the LA and other key stakeholders
5. contributing to cohesion across the community and the promotion of social and racial

The Committee decided to look in detail at section 2: The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus. The exemplifications showed descriptions of 'Developing', 'Established' and 'Advanced' to enable SACREs to evaluate their standing.

Key Area: 2a – The review process

Considered to be better than 'Developing' but there was a need to work on the strengths / weaknesses of the current agreed syllabus. It was felt that the SIAMS

(School Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) reports could assist – Anne Andrews agreed to collate the SIAMS reports for the area for the information of the Committee.

**(Action: Anne Andrews)**

Key Area: 2b – The quality of the local Agreed Syllabus  
Considered that ‘Established’ was appropriate, given positive feedback on the Berkshire syllabus from teachers. The syllabus had to be reviewed every 5 years, with the next review due in 2017. In the past, all members of SACRE had been members of the Agreed Syllabus Committee formed to carry out the review.

Key Area: 2c – Launching and implementing the agreed syllabus  
Considered to be meeting the ‘Established’ criteria.

Key Area: 2d – Membership and training of the Agreed Syllabus Conference  
Key Area: 2e – Developing the revised agreed syllabus  
Key Area: 2f – Making best use of National Guidance  
These three areas were not relevant at this stage.

The Committee agreed to look in detail at the Toolkit Section 5: Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community, at the next meeting. It was suggested that Section 5 of the Toolkit be re-circulated with the agenda.

#### 89. **Exam Results 2014/15**

Chris Salt explained that the GCSE results data available was still only provisional and would not be validated until January 2016. A new data analysis tool was being introduced which had delayed access to the subject by subject and school by school information about GCSE and A level results. However, it was hoped this would become rectified in the next fortnight and the information would be emailed out to the Committee as soon as it was available.

**(Action: Chris Salt)**

Chris tabled a paper for the Committee showing national Religious Studies results for GCSE 1993 – 2015 showing percentage achievement at each grade. The Committee was encouraged to see the steady year by year increase in the number of entrants for GCSE Religious Studies. At most schools in Bracknell, entrance for GCSE Religious Studies examination was optional. The Committee noted from the data in the Annual Report the excellent results in Religious Studies for Edgbarrow School.

#### 90. **Union Representatives**

The Chairman expressed concern at the number of vacancies amongst the Teacher Union representatives on the Committee and asked members to try and seek out potential new teacher representatives.

Anne Andrews indicated that Ruth Jackson, Headteacher at Crowthorne School, was keen to serve on the Committee and it was hoped she could take up membership under the appropriate Union vacancy.

**(Action: Priya Patel)**

91. **Any Other Business**

**Inter Faith Week**

Madeline Diver reminded the Committee about the Inter Faith Week meeting taking place on Wednesday 18 November 2015 at St Joseph's, commencing at 7 for 7.30 pm. Six speakers from different faiths had agreed to attend and speak on the subject of freedom of speech and respect. There was some doubt as to whether email notification of the event had been sent to all members.

**NASACRE Website**

Anne Andrews asked all members to log on to the NASACRE website to peruse the information, materials and resources available there.

92. **Dates of Future Meetings**

The next meeting would take place on 3 March 2016.

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## **Supporting Religious Education across Berkshire:**

### **Proposal for collaborative working of the 6 Berkshire SACREs (Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education) from summer term 2016 to be led by Jan Lever consultancy**

#### **Introduction**

Following the success of the first pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub project (Crossing the Bridges), discussions about continuing pan-Berkshire SACRE activities took place at SACRE meetings during the autumn term 2015, and at a meeting of SACRE chairs on the 15<sup>th</sup> December.

The following proposal and provisional action plan is offered to all 6 SACREs for consideration at their spring term 2016 meetings.

Aim: to reach agreement across all 6 SACREs that the following proposal be adopted and the necessary funding sought, to enable more effective communication and collaboration between the pan-Berkshire SACREs.

#### **Rationale for the proposal**

In a climate of decreasing resources yet an increasing need to ensure RE is taught well, it is believed that 6 SACREs working together on some projects will enable a cost-effective use of resources with maximum benefit to teachers and pupils.

#### **Context**

The 2014 joint SACRE conference initiated the idea that greater collaboration between the 6 SACREs could enable better use of resources and expertise. Each SACRE has people from faith and belief communities who, working together, could support RE more effectively. This was shown to be true during the development of the current agreed syllabus, when faith communities collaborated very successfully.

2015 saw the 6 SACRE Chairs meeting together twice and successfully gaining a grant from the Culham St Gabriel's Trust of £2000 to pump-prime the Crossing the Bridges Project, bringing places of worship together with teachers to

improve the processes for school visits to places of worship to enhance RE learning.

The consensus was reached that there is massive potential for such collaboration of the Berkshire SACREs and that it would be beneficial to pursue this, especially thinking ahead to when the current agreed syllabus needs to be reviewed in 2017. Strong working relationships and effective communication processes could be built before the syllabus review, enabling this considerable process to be run smoothly.

The pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub was formed, initially represented by the 6 Chairs.

### **What is needed to enable this collaboration?**

- Consensus and participation from all 6 SACREs
- Each SACRE being represented at every Hub meeting
- Funding from all 6 SACREs
- Synchronisation of SACRE meetings
- Co-ordination of the Hub
- Management of projects
- Effective communication systems
- Sharing of resources and collaboration

### **Proposed way forward for April 2016 to March 2017**

- Strengthen the pan-Berkshire Hub
- Prepare for the agreed syllabus review
- Develop the Crossing the Bridges Project

### **Proposed plan with costings**

1. Strengthen the pan-Berkshire Hub including preparing for the agreed syllabus review
2. Develop the Crossing the Bridges Project

## 1. Strengthen the pan-Berkshire Hub April 2016-March 2017

### Appoint a Hub co-ordinator to...

- Schedule and organise regular Hub meetings from Summer term 2016  
(at least one per term as agreed by the Hub)
- Plan the agenda in consultation with Hub, keep minutes and distribute.
- Develop a communication system to keep all SACRE members informed of Hub activity and progress
- Draft and co-ordinate the implementation of the Hub work plan, as decided by the Hub.
- Organise the synchronisation of the SACRE meetings to be held during the second half of each school term, and in the second or third week of that half term.
- Lead on the agreed syllabus review; drafting and costing the review project plan in summer term 2016.

### Outcomes:

- Effective communication between the SACREs
- Well-co-ordinated and effective joint projects, including the review of the syllabus
- Well-informed SACRE members, increased involvement
- Agreed work plan for the Hub with outcomes stated and measurable (to be devised by the Hub, serviced by the Hub co-ordinator)
- Synchronised SACRE meeting schedule from September 2016
- Greater support for the teaching of RE than would be possible by each SACRE working in isolation

Cost: 3 days per term (9 days a year) @ £500 a day

9 x £500 = £4500 inc. VAT

**Each SACRE contributes £750 inc. VAT in year 2016-17**

## 2. Develop the Crossing the Bridges Project

### Appoint a Crossing the Bridges Project Co-ordinator to...

- Implement the system developed during the first phase of the project for booking and evaluating visits to places of worship and visitors into schools
- Develop the Directory (electronic) of places of worship where hosts have received training and ensure its dissemination to schools (This strand of the project could be done by a teacher @ £200 a day)
- Continue to run annual training for hosts and teachers (one session in East and one in West) to involve more places of worship and schools in the project
- Disseminate the enquiry approach to visiting places of worship to all primary schools
- Increase SACRE member involvement with the project
- Give annual feedback to SACREs through the Hub as to progress of the project, school involvement etc

### Outcomes:

- Increased involvement of schools in visiting places of worship i.e. more pupils have the opportunity to visit more places of worship and have dialogue with members of faith communities
- Increased participation by places of worship as hosts to schools
- Better informed hosts so more effective visits
- Better RE learning by using enquiry model and by face-to-face dialogue
- Evaluation mechanism in place to inform future steps of the project

### Cost:

Project co-ordinator:

3 days per term (9 days a year) @ £500 a day

9 x £500 = £4500 inc. VAT

**Each SACRE contributes £750 per year**

Teacher (managed by Project co-ordinator):

2 days per term (6 days a year) @£200 a day

6 x £200 = £1200 inc. VAT

**Each SACRE contributes £200 per year**

Total contribution per SACRE 2016-17 = £950 inc. VAT

**To appoint a Hub co-ordinator and a Crossing the Bridges Project co-ordinator (and teacher for Directory work) from April 2016 to March 2017 would cost a total of £10,200 inc. VAT**

Each SACRE's total contribution during 2016-17: £1700 inc. VAT

### **Proposed plan April 2017-March 2018**

This year will primarily be about reviewing the agreed syllabus ready to launch the revised version in the Summer term 2018

The Hub, serviced and supported by the Hub co-ordinator, would write a Syllabus review project plan in the Summer term 2016 with costings, for each SACRE to take to its LA to request appropriate funding.

The Crossing the Bridges Project should be well-established enough by April 2017 to continue under its own steam whilst the agreed syllabus review takes centre stage as the prime task for SACREs.

#### **Estimated costs of syllabus review:**

It is estimated that if each SACRE contributes **approximately £4,000** (including the £750 required for Hub co-ordination during 2016-17), this will be sufficient to cover all the costs. This is in line with the contributions that have been provided by each SACRE for previous syllabus reviews.

### **Rationale for requesting Jan Lever to produce this proposal**

Detailed discussions took place at the Hub meeting in December 2015 about who should be appointed as the Hub co-ordinator and the Crossing the Bridges Project co-ordinator. (See the minutes of the meeting for further details)

It was suggested that it would be best for one person to take on both roles, and that this person should be experienced at leading agreed syllabus reviews as the pan-Berkshire review is pending.

The 3 SACRE advisers were present at the meeting and it made sense for them to be the candidates for these roles as they have a good knowledge of the

Berkshire SACREs, experience of working across several LAs, and have already been involved in leading on the Crossing the Bridges project.

Jo Fageant, having retired from her advisory role with the Oxford Diocese, was clear that she was not in a position to take on this work, although she will of course support the person who takes on the roles.

Anne Andrews, the RE adviser with the Oxford Diocese, volunteered her service for the roles, whilst requesting support for syllabus review work as this would be the first time she had taken on that task.

Jan Lever was happy to take on the roles on the proviso that she would manage all the work whilst delegating some roles to members of her team. Jan is an independent RE Adviser with a team of RE specialist consultants.

**The meeting decided it would make best use of the advisers' expertise if Jan Lever's company was commissioned to take on both roles. Jan would manage the work, with Jo being involved as her capacity allowed, and Anne discussing with Jan how she would best like to be part of the work, and Jan contracting these aspects to her (paying the diocese for Anne's time).**

### **How would the practicalities of contracts etc be organised?**

**Wokingham Borough Council offered to organise a variation of contract for Jan Lever to allow the extra work to be offered to her and to pay Jan for this work (as she is already contracted by WBC for her SACRE work), then invoicing the other SACREs (LAs) for their contributions.**

### **ACTION needed**

**Each SACRE to consider the proposals and feed back to Jan Lever after their meetings, by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March latest, to enable decisions to be made.**

jan@janlevergroup.com

### **Decisions:**

1. Does your SACRE agree with the proposal to appoint a Hub co-ordinator?
2. Can your SACRE commit to its share of the funding for that post? If not, what level of funding could your SACRE contribute?

3. Does your SACRE agree with the proposal to appoint a Crossing the Bridges Project manager?
4. Can your SACRE commit to its share of the funding for that post? If not, what level of funding could your SACRE contribute?
5. Can your SACRE provide a representative (the Chair or another nominated member) to attend all the Hub meetings?
6. Is your SACRE prepared to schedule its meetings during the second or third week of the second half-term of each schools term, September 2016 onwards (or from April 2016 if possible)?
7. Is your SACRE happy for Jan Lever consultancy to lead the proposed work?

Jan Lever, January 2016

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## British values in your school?

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016: 9.30am – 3.30pm, Education Centre, Easthampstead Park**

**This one day course will provide teachers of RE in Key Stages 1-3 with 12 high quality learning strategies to promote values through RE. Exploring the current OFSTED focus on British Values in the context of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, the course will be practical and helpful in work with pupils from Yr 1 to Yr 9**

**This course will enable delegates to understand the contributions RE can make to actively promoting British values and to SMSCD.**

At the end of the day teachers will:

- Be able to use numerous high quality learning approaches with pupils 5-14 in moral development.
- Have thought about issues to do with RE leadership and management in relation to SMSCD and Values education.
- Have developed their practice in relation to handling questions about racism, prejudice and extremism.
- Have explored some high quality learning ideas in relation to Islam and Muslims.
- Be able to meet HMI / OFSTED requirements in relation to this important current focus.

Lat Blaylock, tutor for the day, is a national adviser with RE Today and wrote the bestselling 'Religious Education and British Values (RE Today, 2015)

### **Programme:**

Session 1: 9.30 -11am

**British values: what does it mean and why should schools respond? What does RE offer?**

Session 2: 11.30am – 1pm

**Learning activities exploring the 5 British values: developing RE's focus on attitudes and life in modern Britain**

Session 3: 1.45- 3.30pm

**Planning for excellence in exploring values through RE: 6 practical examples.**

**Evaluation**

### **Booking details:**

The cost for the day is £133 which includes lunch and refreshments and also a copy of Lat Blaylock's book 'Religious Education and British Values'

**Please contact: Sue Shields** Email: [sue.shields@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:sue.shields@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

The Education Centre

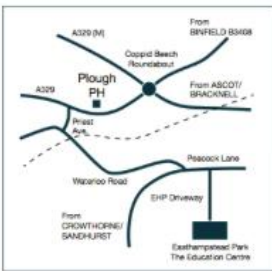
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# The Education Centre



A Bracknell Forest Resource for Learning



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Bracknell Forest Council

