



## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education  
Wednesday 8 November 2017, 5.00 pm  
Council Chamber, Fourth Floor, Easthampstead House, Bracknell**

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

Tracey Williams, Church of England  
Madeline Diver, Associations Representing Teachers (VOICE)  
Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Ms Moira Gaw, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Mrs Dorothy Hayes MBE, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Ian Leake, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Mrs Isabel Mattick, Bracknell Forest Council  
Rev Jackie Case, Free Churches - Methodist  
Wayne Erasmus, Free Churches  
Ruth Jackson, NAHT Headteacher  
Kathy Hadfield, Co-opted Member  
Carol Logan, Church of England  
Deborah Owen, National Union of Teachers (NUT)  
Arfan Rashid, Muslim faith  
Rabbi Zvi Solomons, Jewish faith  
Juanita Dunlop, Catholic Church  
Robyn Lynch, Catholic Church

**ALISON SANDERS**  
Director of Resources

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If you require further information, please contact: Emma Young  
Telephone: 01344 352269  
Email: [emma.young@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:emma.young@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)  
Published: 8 November 2017



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**AGENDA**

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1. <b>Election of Chairman</b>	
2. <b>Election of Vice Chairman</b>	
3. <b>Welcome and Apologies for Absence</b>	
4. <b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>	
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15 June 2017.	3 - 8
5. <b>Matters Arising</b>	
6. <b>Budget</b>	
To receive an update on the annual SACRE budget and update on payment of NASACRE membership	
7. <b>Hub Conference and Agreed Syllabus Conference Feedback</b>	9 - 14
8. <b>Interim GCSE and A level results</b>	
9. <b>State of the Nation report from NATRE and Interim report by Commission for RE</b>	
10. <b>Draft Annual Report</b>	
11. <b>ASC</b>	
12. <b>Humanist Discussion</b>	
13. <b>Any Other Business</b>	
14. <b>Dates of Future Meetings</b>	



**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
15 JUNE 2017  
5.00 - 6.30 PM**

**Present:**

Tracey Williams, Church of England (Chairman)  
 Madeline Diver, Associations Representing Teachers (VOICE) (Vice-Chairman)  
 Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Bracknell Forest Council  
 Councillor Ms Moira Gaw, Bracknell Forest Council  
 Councillor Mrs Dorothy Hayes MBE, Bracknell Forest Council  
 Councillor Mrs Isabel Mattick, Bracknell Forest Council  
 Wayne Erasmus, Free Churches  
 Ruth Jackson, NAHT Headteacher  
 Kathy Hadfield, Co-opted Member  
 Carol Logan, Church of England  
 Deborah Owen, National Union of Teachers (NUT)  
 Rabbi Zvi Solomons, Jewish faith

**In Attendance:**

Anne Andrews, Oxford Diocese Adviser

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Councillor Ian Leake, Bracknell Forest Council  
 Arfan Rashid, Muslim faith

**26. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

- Minute 16: SACRE discussed what could be offered to assist schools who found provision of collective worship *difficult*

**27. Matters Arising**

With regard to the minutes of the previous meeting, the following updates were given:

- New reminders would be issued to those schools who had not submitted a collective worship policy to SACRE. **(Action: Lizzie Rich)**

SACRE also welcomed Robyn Lynch, Richard Harling and Juanita Dunlop as observers to the meeting, with the view that they may wish to become members.

**28. Collective Worship (revised guidance and sample policy)**

Anne Andrews presented the Collective Worship Guidance and Sample Policy 2017, which had been adapted from the document written by Jo Fageant and checked for compliance with legislation.

In response to discussion and questions, the following points on the sample policy were noted:

- Although the legislation required collective worship to be of ‘a broadly Christian character’, there were no exclusions to the faiths which could be included in the syllabus. Collective worship required children to reflect, and it was expected that they would bring their own experience of any faith in this.
- It was best for a school to have separate RE and Collective Worship Co-ordinators, although SACRE recognised that this was often not the case.
- The sample policy was intended to be used as a template to be adapted by schools, and if approved, the document would be hosted on the SACRE website.
- It was clarified that while sixth formers were able to withdraw themselves from Collective Worship, only pupils over 18 could withdraw themselves from Religious Education. Parents could withdraw their children from Collective Worship at any age.
- It was noted that children who were withdrawn from Collective Worship should not cost the school any additional resource.
- It was hoped that the Collective Worship policy would embrace the different meanings of worship.
- Anne Andrews was due to meet with other RE advisers to discuss schools where a collective worship had not been provided, and what would happen in these cases.
- It was agreed that Anne Andrews would discuss the Sandy Lane request for determination with Rachel Morgan, Head of Standards and Effectiveness. It was hoped that the Sandy Lane case would reiterate the importance of Collective Worship policies to other schools.

SACRE approved the Collective Worship Guidance and Sample Policy 2017.

## 29. **Determination Policy (draft guidance and application form)**

Anne Andrews presented a draft report on Applying for a Determination for Collective Worship in Bracknell Forest.

At the last meeting, SACRE had discussed the decision at Brent Council to take a Local Authority-wide determination from the requirement to provide Collective Worship of Christian nature in schools. When Sandy Lane had issued a request for a determination, it was found that Bracknell Forest did yet not have a procedure for determinations.

The new draft process of applications for determinations for Collective Worship outlined that Governors, Parents, Staff and Pupils all needed to be consulted prior to an application for determination being submitted. The Governing Body was required to be in agreement, and the school was required to outline the reason based on the heritage and background of its school demographic. Any application was to be sent to SACRE, where a discussion and decision would be made on any application. A form had been created to this effect, which required schools to conduct the necessary steps before applying. If granted, a determination would last for 5 years following which a fresh application would need to be made.

It was noted that applications for determinations for academies and free schools would go straight to the Department for Education rather than the Local Authority.

It was agreed that determinations were not to be encouraged as SACRE believed that the requirement for Collective Worship was beneficial to the cultural, social and emotional needs of any school. A determination would not grant permission to omit

Collective Worship, rather it would vary the 'broadly Christian nature' element of the requirement.

In response to discussion, the following points were noted:

- RBWM had had one determination for a school, but this had lapsed.
- It was suggested that a FAQ section be added to the start of the policy to outline what a determination was, and what it didn't do.
- In a successful determination, the word 'Christian' would be replaced by another faith, and not a subset of any faith, for example 'broadly Islamic nature'
- Anyone could report concerns with a school's Collective Worship, and SACRE would be responsible for following up this concern. It was recognised that monitoring the compliance, quality and regularity of Collective Worship was difficult, past assessment of the policies. Ofsted were also likely to check a school's Collective Worship provision.
- It was noted that since the Governor appoint process had changed, the Local Authority could not appoint a Local Authority governor to keep updated on Collective Worship and other policies, rather, the Local Authority would nominate a candidate to the Governing Body who could agree or disagree to their appointment.
- A rolling visiting programme for SACRE members to observe Collective Worship in schools was suggested.

SACRE approved the application policy document and process, and agreed that the policy should be held until required in the event of a determination application.

### 30. **Syllabus Review**

Anne Andrews pretend the Pan-Berkshire Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Review 2017-18, which had been agreed in principle at the Pan-Berkshire Hub on 24 April 2017.

The Bracknell Forest RE Agreed Syllabus was due to be reviewed in 2017, and Ann had held two subject leader meetings to gauge opinion on the current syllabus which was generally well liked. Subject leaders had commented that further guidance would be helpful.

In order to create an agreed syllabus, the Local Authority was required to convene an agreed syllabus conference. In the past, the Local Authority had asked SACRE to act as the agreed syllabus conference in addition and separately to their role as SACRE, and it was suggested that this be done again. **(Action: Lizzie Rich to ask Derek Morgan)**

Jan Lever had scheduled a pan-Berkshire syllabus review meeting for 4 October 2017, but Anne Andrews would be undertaking a separate Jewish syllabus review meeting as the meeting clashed with the Eve of Sukkot. A survey had been submitted to all RE teachers in Berkshire, and the information arising from this would be collated by Jan Lever in the summer holidays.

SACRE asked whether the agreed syllabus needed to be ratified by SACRE or the Local Authority, and it was agreed that this would be confirmed with the Council's Democratic Services. **(Action: Lizzie Rich)**

SACRE members were also informed of pan-Berkshire SACRE training taking place on 28 September 2017 at the Holiday Inn, Winnersh Triangle, and each Berkshire SACRE was required to fund four places. Tracey Williams and Madeline Diver expressed interest in attending, and a further two places were available to Bracknell Forest SACRE members.

### 31. **Hub Update and details of next Hub Conference**

Anne Andrews updated on the pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub, which had most recently met on 25 April 2017.

The Hub meeting had planned the Training on Roles and Responsibilities of SACRE members, and the pan-Berkshire RE Conference.

The Crossing the Bridges project had been completed, and it was hoped that the complete Crossing the Bridges directory could be hosted on the Bracknell Forest Schools Management website.

### 32. **Constitution Review**

SACRE discussed the existing SACRE Constitution.

From September 2017, teaching associations NUT and ATL would be merged into one association, resulting in two member spaces on SACRE merged into one. It was proposed that Bracknell Forest do the same as Reading SACRE and combine the teaching associations into one group to avoid making regular changes to the Constitution depending on the associations. It was agreed that it was better to secure teacher representatives than specific union representatives. Anne Andrews agreed to approach the subject leaders' group to invite them to join SACRE as teaching representatives.

In response to questions, the following points were noted:

- SACRE could only decide the numbers within the groups, as the groups themselves were fixed.
- The ability to co-opt members kept some flexibility in the SACRE membership.
- In terms of quoracy, one representative from each group was required to attend for SACRE to be quorate, because in a formal vote one vote would be allocated to each group. It was noted that Bracknell Forest SACRE was always quorate due to regular attendance, but at other Berkshire SACREs, maintaining quoracy had been a challenge.

SACRE agreed the constitutional change to amend Group C to be Teachers and Teachers' Representatives (6), and asked that this amendment be made through the Local Authority. (**Action: Lizzie Rich**)

### 33. **Crossing the Bridges**

The Crossing the Bridges update was covered under the Hub update item.

### 34. **NASACRE - Feedback from Conference**

Anne Andrews gave an update from the NASACRE AGM which she had attended on 16 May 2017 in York, on behalf of Bracknell Forest SACRE.

The conference had been a useful and interesting, and had included talks from Joyce Miller from REC and CoRE, and Aaqil Ahmed. Only RBWM and Bracknell Forest SACREs had been represented from Berkshire, so information sharing opportunities had been limited.

Anne commented that she had been reassured that other SACREs were asking the same questions about issues such as Collective Worship as had been asked in Bracknell.

In response to questions, the following points were noted:

- It was suggested that a SACRE competition or celebration press release be arranged to raise the profile of SACRE's work in Bracknell Forest.
- Talks and Question and Answers from the conference would be uploaded on the NASACRE website. If any SACRE member required the log in for the NASACRE website, they were asked to contact Lizzie Rich.

35. **Any Other Business**

SACRE were informed that David Fawcett, past SACRE chairman and Borough Councillor had passed away. It was agreed that a letter of condolence be sent to his family to recognise the impact he had during his time with SACRE. **(Action: Lizzie Rich)**

36. **Dates of Future Meetings**

The next meeting was scheduled for 8 November 2017.

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## Feedback from Pan Berkshire SACRE Conference

28<sup>th</sup> September 2017

33 feedback sheets received from attendees (43 attendees)

### Positives – what went well

- Great mix of people and good discussion/good food/good location
- Well organised / excellent organisation / good structure
- Good review of work done over the year
- Good to meet and chat to teachers other SACRE members
- Good to share ideas and thoughts
- Good pace, different speakers, good chance for discussion
- Clear summaries on power points
- Refresher on resources / update on syllabus
- Cross faith dialogue
- Loved the song at the beginning quite emotional – how can we build on this?
- Useful to talk to teachers
- Very informative and well organised
- Good review of syllabus review and where we are now
- An inspiring evening – thank you

### Things that might be improved for 2018 conference

- Timings – could the conference start a bit earlier as after a long day its quite hard when tired
- Not enough time for Big Question
- Could we have something on collective worship
- Less table talk unless it will be used to inform future policy!
- Making it clear how to access your resources (website) etc.
- Shorter summary/reflection at the end
- Ideas about how to lead discussions in school
- More input from audience/more tie to discuss Big Question panel perhaps?
- Market the conference more effectively so that more people come
- Longer session so that we can cover more
- The Big Question could be a conference on its own
- Make more relevant to teachers of RE and helping them teach various aspects rather than informing SACRE/ syllabus review
- Would like panel questioning
- Hearing/ seeing practical ways that bits of the syllabus have been brought to life
- Sharing good practice
- Have table reps
- Name badges please

- Less time on presentations at start
- More info on statutory requirements and what is going on nationally
- Input from Ofsted
- Input from politicians local MP's

### Crossing the Bridges Project comments

- Loved Crossing the Bridges info - organising synagogue trip for her school
- Clearer access to resources needed, websites/documents
- Push for more links with people coming into schools
- Can we have some stats from the project
- Directory is very helpful
- A great initiative which has inspired us to create a "faith in our community" trail for our children
- Fantastic idea – would like to get guests into school as trips have been refused in school time?!
- Good to review directory
- Brilliant! A real need for access to forms/paperwork on line
- Amazing resource
- Need to ensure we embed this so it does not become a one off project
- Amazing ideas the work produced is fantastic
- Needs great publicity in schools and faith spaces
- Feel there are gaps by some faith groups – Aliea Rashid would like to be involved
- Excellent – need to build a really good pool of volunteers in each area who are well trained
- How do schools find out about it

### Suggestions for syllabus review

- More Islam coverage in KS2 isolating for Muslim children if followed to requirement especially as featured regularly in the media
- Like Big Questions
- Clearer assessment strategies to support teachers
- Assessment should try and reflect new GCSE curriculum – emphasis on knowledge/key vocabulary and presenting persuasive arguments
- Will Discovery RE be updated in line with the new syllabus and how quickly?
- Good timetabling, project management
- Would like to see concepts like "more in common" across the teaching
- Not sure if 4<sup>th</sup> October sessions worked
- Needs to be dynamic
- Make guidance simpler
- Need to challenge pupils on agnostic beliefs such as consumerism, utilitarianism
- On line version of syllabus would be great with formed lesson plans/resources
- Examples of detailed lesson plans for each age group
- Link all the religions

- Needs to be as explicit and understandable as possible

### Any other comments to assist us in the future

- Sufficient training if there are changes to syllabus review
- How do we get more SACRE members involved?
- Make email comms more effective, can it be more succinct, easier to consume, less of an effort!
- Could everyone introduce themselves so we all know who everyone is
- Try and get some faith leaders from the muslim community
- Share an email contact list
- Let's hear more from teachers. RE co-ordinators

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# Crossing the Bridges Project

The pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub project bringing together schools and places of worship to enhance RE learning.



**Final Report: October 2017**

## We have crossed many bridges!

Thanks to the grants awarded to the 6 SACREs (Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education) comprising the pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub from Culham St Gabriel's and Westhill/NASACRE, we are very proud to have achieved all the goals the project set out 2 years ago.

In response to teachers across Berkshire asking for support in organising meaningful visits to places of worship and in knowing who to invite into RE lessons to give pupils insight into faith and belief positions, the project was established.

The 6 SACREs worked together to maximise the use of the places of worship in each of their areas, some very diverse with a wealth of different religions represented, some less-so. Working together made the pool of resources deeper, bridges across LA boundaries being crossed as well as between teachers and hosts at places of worship.

### Over the 2 years we have achieved:

- Common booking forms for visits and visitors
- Common evaluation forms
- A fantastically versatile teaching/learning interactive booklet for using an enquiry approach during visits
- 5 sample booklets for teachers
- An online Directory of over 40 places of worship willing to welcome school visits
- Training sessions for hosts at places of worship
- 4 'on location' training trips for teachers
- 12 powerpoint presentations using photos taken on the trips, one for each place of worship visited, and now available to all schools across Berkshire
- 2 conferences for SACREs and teachers



### The 2017 annual SACRE Conference

Held in the evening on 28th September, 2017, this event brought together nearly 50 people (SACRE representatives, teachers, hosts from places of worship, advisers).

They celebrated the achievements of the Crossing the Bridges Project, shared a buffet supper, and considered some of the issues facing RE in the current climate and in the light of national developments and reviews.



This was also the opportunity to discuss the pan-Berkshire agreed syllabus and suggest developments as we move forward with its review.

Input from the SACRE Advisers and insights offered by officers from 3 of the 6 SACREs, as well as from our mentor from Westhill/NASACRE enhanced the evening.

The 6 Berkshire SACREs are committed to working together for the benefit of children and young people's RE learning, leading by example, crossing the bridges into each other's religions, belief systems and communities... for the greater good.



### Next steps...

1. The most important next step is to ensure all schools across Berkshire are aware of the Crossing the Bridges resources and the opportunities presented for visits and visitors.
2. The online Directory can keep growing and needs to be updated regularly

Again, the pan-Berkshire SACREs would like to thank all those involved in making this project possible and the success it is so far.

**Jan Lever**

SACRE Hub manager on behalf of the 6 Berkshire SACREs

October 2017

