

Annual SACRE Report 2011-2012

The SACRE has several aspects to its role. It:

- Advises the local authority on matters relating to collective worship and religious education
- Advises on methods of teaching and resources for religious education
- Decides whether or not to grant determinations to those schools which apply to have daily worship which is other than of a broadly Christian character
- Identifies the need for a revised religious education syllabus

To help with this endeavour the Bracknell Forest SACRE works with NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs) and The Diocese of Oxford.

For more information about the role and business of the SACRE please contact:

The Clerk:

The Local Authority Officer: Martin Surrell

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Religious Education (RE)

A new syllabus

This year members of the SACRE also served as the Agreed Syllabus Conference and in this role they worked with five other conferences to review and revise the locally agreed syllabus for RE. This has been the year's main focus and it has been a long and stimulating project. Teachers from all the participating local authorities had an opportunity to express their views about the old syllabus; some from each area came together in phase groups to revise aspects of the syllabus; and members of faith communities from Newbury to Slough worked together to revisit the information about their religions and revise it where necessary to ensure that they were happy with the ways in which their faiths were represented. The document was finally finished and launched in July.



Many schools were represented at a successful training afternoon which set out the requirements of the new syllabus and the ways in which it differs from the one with which they had previously been working. Key developments include:

- A shorter and more flexible syllabus
- Support material, previously included in the syllabus, now found in three appendices
- An amended definition of 'learning from religion' which includes a requirement to grapple with the truth claims of religions
- A new style of key question which combines both 'learning about' and 'learning from' religion perspectives
- A focus on key concepts to build bridges between religious enquiries and pupils' own experiences
- 'Learning about religion' set out in terms of 'believing', 'behaving' and 'belonging' in each religion
- Guidance on planning
- Only slight amendments to the Foundation Stage and 14-19 sections

RE Support

A few teachers attended some of a trio of **courses** provided by the Diocese of Oxford:

- A P4C approach to RE, Autumn 2011
- Identifying and providing for able, gifted and talented pupils in RE, Spring 2012
- Assessment in RE, Summer 2012

The extensive **artefacts collection** stored at the Education Centre is available to schools in Bracknell Forest. Catalogues are available and copies were distributed at the syllabus training day.

Collective Worship

With the development of a new RE syllabus the SACRE has not been able to give much attention to collective worship during this year. The Diocese of Oxford has offered courses attended by a number of teachers from the church primary schools. These have focused on the development of prayer spaces in schools and also ways in which pupils can become increasingly responsible for worship.

No applications for a determination have been received by the SACRE this year.

Meetings held:

Three meetings were held during the reporting year:

10 November 2011,8 March 20125 July 2012.Additional meetings were also held solely to address Agreed Syllabus Conference business

Membership Update—Thanks and good wishes

At the start of the year Gordon Anderson was re-elected as Chairman with Paula Ridgway serving as Vice Chair. It was with sadness that the SACRE accepted the resignation of Gordon in February at which time Paula took over as Chair. When the syllabus was completed several long serving members decided that the end of this year was the most appropriate time for them to resign. The SACRE, therefore wishes to express its enormous gratitude for their commitment and support to Anne Gibbons, Colin Hickson, Samantha Hunt, Michael Bentley, Julie Mintern and Paula Ridgway all of whom have contributed richly to development of RE in Bracknell. Although difficult to single any out for special mention it is important to acknowledge the wonderful work Samantha did to develop and catalogue the exceptional collection of artefacts that are available for loan to schools.

Particular thanks are reserved for **Gordon Anderson** who served as the Chairman of the SACRE from its inception until February of this year. Members have repeatedly voted him into this post because he is extremely well organised, chairs meetings highly effectively and efficiently and has been always been so strongly committed to the work of the SACRE. His leaving was a great loss, especially as he was unable to bring to conclusion the review of the syllabus that he had supported so enthusiastically. Without a doubt he was the strongest influence in defining the character of the Bracknell Forest SACRE and members, schools and the local authority owe him a great debt of gratitude for all the years of service he gave.

At the end of the year there were vacancies for representatives from the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of England (2), Hinduism, NUT, ATL, ASCL

Keeping up to date

Members of the SACRE attend meetings of other groups and keep colleagues informed of developments elsewhere. Mark Olney attended a Faith Debate addressed by Richard Dawkins and Madeline Driver reported on a meeting of a ICAB Hinduism workshop. Jo Fageant currently serves as the secretary of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and is that organisation's representative on the RE Council of England and Wales.

The SACRE is aware that it has found its responsibility to monitor the provision and quality of RE and collective worship in the Authority's schools virtually impossible to fulfil. One of the main benefits of such monitoring is to inform the SACRE of the needs of schools and help members to identify ways in which they might best support schools in the provision of RE and collective worship. The SACRE, therefore, invites and would welcome news from schools about what is going well in both areas so this news can be shared with others and it would very much like to hear teachers' suggestions about the support they would most like the SACRE to provide.

Membership of Bracknell Forest Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 2011-2012

	2011-2012	
Representing	Member	Meetings attended
Group A:	Christian denominations and other re	eligions
Free Churches	Paula Ridgway	3/3
	John Baildam	2/3
	Susan Burrow	1/2
Roman Catholic Church	Anne Gibbons	3/3
	Carol Nicholls	3/3
Buddhism	Joel Roszykiewicz	3/3
Hinduism	Kusam Trikha	1/1
Islam	Arfan Rashid	3/3
Judaism	Zvi Solomons	1/3
Sikhhism	Ranjit Bilkhu	1/3
Group B:	The Church of England	
	Gordon Anderson	1/1
	David Fawcett	3/3
	Julie Mintern	2/3
	Mark Olney	2/2
Group C:	Associations representing teachers	
NASUWT	Felicity Allen	2/2
NAHT	Maria Soulsbury	0/2
ATL	Samantha Hunt	1/3
VOICE	Madeline Driver	3/3
NUT	Colin Hickson	2/3
ASCL	Vacancy	
Group D:	The Local Authority	
	Cllr Andy Blatchford	2/3
	Cllr Gareth Barnard	1/? 2or3
	Cllr Dorothy Hayes	2/3
	Cllr Peter Heydon	2/3
	Cllr Clifton Thompson	2/3
Local Authority Officer	: Martin Surrell	3/3
Professional Adviser:	Ms Jo Fageant	3/3
Clerk:	Priya Patel	2/2
	Ron Schrieber	1/1