



Bracknell Forest Council

Annual SACRE Report 2012-2013

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.

This report sets out a brief summary of the work of the Bracknell Forest SACRE over the academic year 2012-2013. The minutes of the meetings which give more detail can be found at [????????????????????????????????](#)

The make up and terms of reference can be found at the same address.

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

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Religious Education (RE)

RE Courses

Teachers in Bracknell Forest have had opportunities to attend three twilight RE meetings sponsored by the SACRE. These have covered a range of general RE related issues and received largely positive feedback on progress with the implementation of Pan Berkshire RE syllabus published in the summer of 2012. These meetings were appreciated for the opportunity they afforded teachers to ask any questions they wanted, clarify confusions and concerns and share ideas with other neighbouring schools. A number of teachers were interested in the *Discovery* resource which comprises medium term RE planning for Years 1-6 linked to the Pan Berkshire syllabus. It is supported by a website to which teachers are invited to contribute their own ideas. This resource is particularly valuable in schools where teachers' confidence with RE is limited. It does not present a locally focused approach to the subject however. An agreed focus for the next academic year was for teachers to work together to develop some locally focused ideas and resources to support them in the classroom. To this end, teachers are invited and encouraged to explore the religious life of the community around their schools and bring relevant information and ideas to future meetings.

Five teachers also attended a course entitled, *Using digital technologies to give RE the HOTS* (Higher Order Thinking Skills). The delegates ranged in expertise with their use of computers from almost novices to very experienced but Sharon Artley managed to provide a day that offered something for everyone. Each person tried out something which was new to them and many were highly enthused about applying their learning to classroom contexts. The course ran in three additional locations within the diocese and all delegates had access, and continue to do so, to a shared online 'Padlet' which recorded all the ideas they had for the application of their learning. Feedback after the course suggested that teachers shared what they had learned with colleagues in their schools and there was impact on teachers other than those who attended the course and also on subjects and areas of school life beyond RE.

One teacher attended the Culham St Gabriel's residential weekend conference which took place in the autumn of 2012 at Wokefield Park near Reading. This was, as always, a highly stimulating weekend with well known speakers from the RE community and many displays of excellent resources.

Secondary School RE

The SACRE received information about GCSE results across the local authority which revealed that students achieved excellent grades. However, fewer students than in previous years sat an RE examination at this level. The SACRE wrote to all secondary schools highlighting the requirement of the locally agreed syllabus that all students in KS4 should study for an externally accredited course in RE.

The numbers studying for A level had remained consistent.



SACRE Developments

Meetings held:

Three meetings were held during the reporting year:

8th November 2012, 7th March 2013 and 4th July 2013.

Membership:

David Fawcett was elected as the Chair of the SACRE with Madeleine Diver and Kathy Hadfield jointly serving as Vice Chair.

At the end of the year Joel Roszykiewicz resigned as the Buddhist representative . The SACRE was extremely grateful to him for the valuable contributions he made to its work whilst he was a member. Susan Burrow resigned shortly after the start of the academic year.

The SACRE was grateful for the support of Ron Schrieber whilst he served as clerk but was also pleased to welcome back Priya Patel after a period of leave.

Keeping up to date

The SACRE received a presentation from Abby Thomas, Head of Community Engagement and Equalities, about the results of the 2011 census regarding religious affiliation in Bracknell. Although Christianity remains the largest group, numbers were reduced from 72% in 2001 to 61%. Numbers affiliated to other religions had increased in total from 2.6% to 4.46%. However, the second largest group was people affiliated to no religion, increased from 25% to 35%. As a result, members agreed to review their response to Humanist representation on the SACRE.

Members of the SACRE are able to keep up to date with national initiatives in relation to RE and collective worship with the help of their professional adviser, Jo Fageant. She 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. David Fawcett attended the NASACRE AGM where presentations from Alan Brine (Ofsted) and Mark Chater (Culham St Gabriel's Trust) highlighted issues facing RE and SACREs and challenged delegates to find positive and proactive ways of serving the needs of schools.

This opportunity was followed by a more local conference for the six SACREs sharing the Pan Berkshire RE syllabus. Alan Brine reiterated many of the points he had raised at the NASACRE AGM and delegates considered possible local initiatives in the service of schools. Of particular interest had been Alan's positive report of a young ambassadors initiative in another authority. This involved pupils of various faiths in secondary schools, preparing and sharing presentations about their faiths with local primary schools. The SACRE agreed to explore the possibility of such a project within Bracknell.

Making a Difference

Resources for RE

An extensive loan collection of high quality artefacts to support schools in the teaching of RE is located at the education centre at Easthampstead Park. Schools have all received a copy of the catalogue of these resources and it can also be found online at: [????????????????????](#).

Monitoring RE

The SACRE is aware that it has found its responsibility to monitor the provision and quality of RE and collective worship in Bracknell Forest 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

2012-2013

Representing	Member	Meetings attended
Group A: Christian denominations and other religions		
Free Churches	John Baildam	2/3
	Ken Blanton	2/2
	Christopher Smith	3/3
	Susan Burrow	0/1
Roman Catholic Church	Carol Nicholls	2/3
	Vacancy	
Buddhism	Joel Roszykiewicz	3/3
Hinduism	Vacancy	
Islam	Arfan Rashid	2/3
Judaism	Rabbi Zvi Solomons	1/3
Sikhism	Ranjit Bilkhu	0/3
Group B: The Church of England		
	David Fawcett (Chair)	3/3
	Mark Olney	1/3
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
Group C: Associations representing teachers		
NASUWT	Felicity Allen	0/3???
NAHT	Maria Soulsbury	0/3
ATL	Vacancy	
VOICE	Madeline Driver (Vice Chair)	3/3
NUT	Vacancy	
ASCL	Vacancy	
Group D: The Local Authority		
	Cllr Andy Blatchford	3/3
	Cllr Gareth Barnard	0/?
	Cllr Dorothy Hayes	2/3
	Cllr Will Davison	3/3
	Cllr Clifton Thompson	1/3
Local Authority Officer:	Mr Martin Surrell	3/3
Professional Adviser:	Ms Jo Fageant	3/3
Clerk:	Ron Schrieber	2/2
	Priya Patel	1/1
Also attending:	Abby Thomas	1/1