



# Annual SACRE Report 2018-19

The SACRE has several aspects to its role. These include:

- ❖ Advising the local authority on matters relating to collective worship and religious education
- ❖ Advising on methods of teaching and resources for religious education
- ❖ Considering requests for determinations from any schools which apply to have daily worship which is other than of a broadly Christian character
- ❖ Identifying and revising an Agreed Syllabus for religious education

*In principle, every pupil is entitled to RE of the highest quality... A core duty of the SACRE is to gain an overview of the quality of the RE provision in LA Maintained schools and to develop effective strategies to promote the highest standards." - National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)*

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

This report sets out a summary of the work of the Bracknell Forest SACRE over the academic year 2017 - 2018.

The minutes of the meetings which give more detail can be found at

<http://democratic.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=157>

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

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## Introduction

Each year SACRE is required to produce a summary of its activities. The Education Act of 2002 requires that religious education must be provided as part of the basic curriculum in addition to the National Curriculum. This report outlines our work to promote RE and Collective worship in the Borough, to develop the good teaching of Religious Education in our schools and to support community cohesion. This report covers the Academic year 2018-2019 and includes GCSE results from this period and a brief overview of SACRE discussions.

In June 2018, we launched the new revised and agreed syllabus. Members of SACRE worked alongside teaching staff and other SACRE members to produce a curriculum framework that is helpful, flexible and useful for educators. From a teaching perspective, it has provided clear outcomes for each phase that should support teaching and planning in challenging and assessing progress overall. Although there is much evidence to collect with regards to its worth, early indications highlight how useful it has been overall.

The Bracknell Forest SACRE continues to strengthen in terms of working proactively and supportively with its schools and community to ensure that it is representative of the area of Bracknell Forest. Our SACRE has continued to do its best in the last year but like many across the country it faces both internal and external pressures.

There is clearly plenty of valuable work that our SACRE could be doing to impact on the teaching of Education. Discussions have centred around involving pupils to talk to SACRE members to provide purpose to our meetings. This happened early this year as secondary school pupils had been invited to present to members. Holding meetings at local schools and places of worship has also been discussed to bring our focus closer to the action. These are some of the questions that we have spoken about this year and will continue to do so in future meetings.

There continues to be vacancies within SACRE that have been difficult to replace throughout. It has been a challenge to recruit colleagues to represent their faith and to provide a voice. SACRE is working hard to look at different ways to approaching this issue but it is challenging.

SACRE continues to support RE in schools through the SACRE newsletter. RE network meetings and email.

Finally, I would like to thank you Bracknell Forest Council in continuing to provide good specialist advisory support, by funding the services of our RE and SACRE Advisor – Anne Andrews, during 2018-19 academic year.

## Advice Offered

- a) Local Authority:
- Advice continues to be offered to the LA about providing sufficient funding and the letter from NASACRE/NATRE was shared.
  - The LA was advised to continue to subscribe to NASACRE and continue to support the Pan-Berkshire SACRE hub.
  - The LA was asked to provide copies of Ofsted reports that highlighted RE, collective worship or spiritual development.
    - Response: Although budget information remains hard to pin down, and the NASACRE subscription was overlooked in handover between clerks, the LA has agreed to continue to support the hub and has renewed NASACRE for 19-20.
    - No Ofsted reports were provided, but this was in part due to the LA officer being stuck on the motorway and unable to attend the final meeting of the year.
- b) Schools:
- Advice to schools has been in the form of the SACRE newsletters, covering RE and Collective worship, RE network meetings and the syllabus guidance materials that have been sent to all schools.
    - Feedback from schools has been supportive and positive.
- c) Government:
- SACRE has not offered any advice to the government this year.

## Standards, quality & provision of RE

- a) Public exams:
- GCSE headlines
  - A Level headlines
- b) Attainment in RE:
- It continues to be difficult for SACRE to gather information about attainment in RE, outside of public examinations, as standards in RE are not routinely reported on.
  - Only two schools in the area, one primary and one secondary, have undergone section 48 SIAMS inspections and the RE in both schools was rated highly. Both of these schools are supporting other schools with RE.
- c) Quality of provision:
- Again little evidence has been collected this year about the quality of provision, but a presentation from one of the secondary schools to SACRE on an RE ambassador scheme, which trains pupils in giving presentations on an aspect of religious education and then sends them into primary schools to present lessons showed that in some schools at least there is quality RE being delivered.
  - Primary school teachers that attend training report that they are able to offer between 30 and 60 minutes RE per week. This is below the recommended time allocation in the Locally Agreed syllabus but shows that most schools are serious about offering some RE to all pupils.

- The three network meetings have focused on planning the learning journey and moderating RE work, with a session on spring festivals in Judaism and Hinduism to increase subject knowledge.
  - The hope is to roll this scheme out to other secondary schools in the borough, using the experienced staff and pupils as trainers.
- d) Withdrawal: No schools have sought support with issues of withdrawal.
- e) Complaints: No complaints have been received by SACRE about either the quality or provision of RE.

## Agreed Syllabus

- a) Review:
- Having launched the syllabus in July 2018, much of the year 18-19 has been spent producing the supporting guidance materials which have now been distributed to schools.
  - Initial school response to these materials and to the syllabus in general has been positive.
- b) Date of next review
- Under current legislation the next syllabus review will not take place until 2023

## Standard, quality & provision of Collective Worship

- a) Compliance:
- As with RE, verifying compliance in collective worship proves difficult. While schools have responded to the enquiry last year and provided policies for collective worship, verifying compliance has not happened.
- b) Quality:
- As Ofsted reports have not been shown to have commented on collective worship, the quality of what is on offer remains largely unknown.
  - The two schools that were inspected under the new SIAMS schedule were both reported to be delivering high quality collective worship.
- c) Determinations:
- No requests for determinations have been either received or granted, although a process now exists for such an eventuality.
- d) Complaints:
- No complaints have been received about CW

## Management of SACRE

- a) Attendance:
- Attendance at SACRE meetings this year has been below the usual.
  - Two of the three meetings have been inquorate. This has largely been due to Group B (C of E) having only one representative.
  - Repeated emails to C of E churches in the locality has added one new member, but only from the July meeting.

- The survey at the end of 2018 did not provide conclusive evidence for alternative times or venues.
- b) Membership and training:
- SACRE continues to fund a professional adviser for 5 days a year to cover SACRE and RE network meetings, as well as additional duties as required.
  - There continue to be 10 vacancies, and one member who has neither attended nor sent apologies for the entire year 2018-19 has been asked to leave his post. The Board of Jewish deputies has been approached to provide a replacement. In the meantime, this creates an additional vacancy, leaving the Muslim and the co-opted Bahai as the only non-Christian faith representatives on SACRE.
  - Work pressure on teachers continues to make it difficult to recruit them to SACRE.
  - All new members are offered the SACRE members handbook, but no specific training took place this year.
- c) Pan-Berkshire SACRE hub
- Bracknell Forest SACRE has continued to work with the other 5 Berkshire SACREs on the hub. The chair or vice chair attends the hub meetings, as does the adviser to SACRE.
  - The hub is working on a Westhill funded project to produce a range of short filmed interviews in a range of places of worship. Bracknell SACRE is supportive of this project.
- d) Complaints: SACRE has not had to deal with any complaints

## Contribution to Local Authority Wider Agenda

- a) School support:
- School support has been offered through the SACRE newsletter, the RE network meetings and by email.
  - The LA has not requested any specific RE/CW support for any schools.
- b) Links to broader community issues
- The proposed expansion of the RE ambassador scheme will strengthen links between primary and secondary schools and promote the religious diversity of Bracknell Forest.
- c) Community Cohesion
- The decision to apply for a Westhill/NASACRE award for a project called “Real People, Real Faith” that will again see teachers visiting places of worship was a response to the need to create greater links between teachers and faith communities. The award has been granted and will be the focus of much of the work of SACRE during 2019-20.
  - The project will involve a range of teachers, places of worship, faith representatives and hopefully school media departments as well, creating links between groups.
  - The SACRE newsletter now regularly contains invitations to, and information about, the local inter-faith network meetings, especially those taking place in Inter-faith week.

## Summary

This has been a difficult and, in some ways, frustrating year, as the inactivity of the first two meetings has made it hard to achieve anything. The support of the chair and vice-chair for the hub has however meant that the Westhill funded project will be able to go ahead next year.

The chair is determined that attendance and membership issues will be addressed, and this gives me hope that next year will be better.

We are having yet another change of Local authority officer and while the clerk remains the same, SACRE has been informed that individual meetings may not be supported by the same person each time. SACRE is also hoping that by moving some of the meetings to schools or to places of worship, with better parking facilities than the council offices, attendance may improve.

I'd like to thank those members who have been faithful through this year and for all the contributions to the guidance material.

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Anne Andrews (Adviser to SACRE)

## SACRE Membership and Attendance 2018-19

Group Represented	Name	14 November	7 March	4 July
Free Church (A)	Rev Jackie Case		Present	
Free Church (A)	Wayne Erasmus	Present	Apologies	apologies
Free Church (A)	Vicky Gibson		Observer	Apologies
Catholic (A)	VACANCY			
Catholic (A)	Robyn Lynch	Present	Present	Present
Muslim (A)	Arfan Rashid	Present	Present	Present
Sikh (A)	VACANCY			
Hindu (A)	VACANCY			
Buddhist (A)	VACANCY			
Jewish (A)	Zvi Solomons			
C of E (B)	Adrian Laws	Apologies	Apologies	Present
C of E (B)	VACANCY		Gill Hanson	apologies
C of E (B)	VACANCY			
C of E (B)	VACANCY			
Teacher/union (C)	VACANCY			
Teacher/union (C)	Madeline Diver (Vice chair)	Present	Apologies	Present
Teacher/union (C)	Deborah Owen	Present	Present	Apologies
Teacher/union (C)	VACANCY			
Teacher/union (C)	Ruth Jackson	Present	Apologies	Present
Teacher/union (C)	VACANCY			
Councillor (D)	Gareth Barnard (Char)	Present	Present	Present
Councillor (D)	Dorothy Hayes	Apologies	A	
Councillor (D)	Moira Gaw	Present	Present	Lizzy Gibson
Councillor (D)	Isabel Mattick	Present	Present	Present
Councillor (D)	Ian Leake	Apologies	Present	Alvin Finch – new Present
Co-opted (Bahai)	Kathy Hadfield	Present		Apologies
School Adviser	Steve Bogg	Present	Present	Apologies
Professional Adviser	Anne Andrews	Present	Present	present
Clerk	Elizabeth Rich	Present	Present	Present

Key:

Present	X= no apologies	Apologies given	Vacancy
Left/resigned	Observer	New member	