



**MILTON KEYNES  
COUNCIL**

# **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 Milton Keynes 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 Milton Keynes SACRE over the academic year 2011-2012.



Liz, Paul and Jo are the people to contact if you would like more information about the role and business of the SACRE.

The Clerk: Liz Corby

[Liz.Corby@Milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:Liz.Corby@Milton-keynes.gov.uk)

Chair: Rev Paul Smith

[paul.a.smith.mk@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.a.smith.mk@btinternet.com)

Adviser: Jo Fageant:

[jo.fageant@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:jo.fageant@oxford.anglican.org) , 07885 697447

## SACRE Developments

**Meetings** of the SACRE during this year were held between 10.00 and 12.00 on the following dates:

- 18 October 2011,
- 7 February 2012 and
- 19 June 2012.

### **Membership:**

Rev'd Paul Smith was elected as Chair of the SACRE. The SACRE continued to be challenged by a considerable number of vacancies in Groups A, B and C. Although there were no vacancies in Group D, Councillors were very rarely able to attend meetings which meant most were not quorate. Page four of this report identifies the vacancies currently existing within the SACRE. If you are eligible and would be willing to take one of these positions, please contact Liz Corby (contact details on page 1)

Membership was enriched, however, by the inclusion of Rachel Foster from the Bridgebuilder Trust and Talvinder Kaur Virdee-Basra (Sikh) in Group A and Andrea Quayle (Humanist) and Ken Harris (Inter-faith MK) as co-optees.

Members continue to be very grateful to Liz Corby who serves as the Clerk to the SACRE. Her cheerful commitment to the committee is much appreciated.

During the year the SACRE received a presentation from Harkirat Singh from the Sikh Education Service. He outlined opportunities the service was able to make available to schools at negotiated, affordable rates. In particular, the service is able to provide Sikh speakers to visit schools.

The SACRE also received a presentation from Andrea Quayle which was an introduction to Humanism.

Members were very impressed with the short books on Sikhism and Buddhism which were initiated by Ken Harris through a project entitled 'Voices of Faith'. Each book set out information about the religion in a Milton Keynes context. Copies were distributed to Milton Keynes secondary schools. By the end of the year of this report a start had been made on a similar book about Christianity with the project being overseen by Rachel Foster.

Another significant initiative of the year was SACRE's decision to establish a website. This was then developed as part of the local authority's provision. It is intended that this will host a range of resources and information to support RE and collective worship in schools.

## Collective Worship

With the necessary early work to support the implementation of the a new RE syllabus, the SACRE has not been able to give much attention to collective worship during this year. However, an guidance and advice paper prepared by members approximately two years ago remains current and is available on the local authority website.

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 either this year or in previous years.

# Religious Education (RE)

## RE Courses

Teachers in Milton Keynes have had opportunities to attend a trio of courses provided in partnership with the Diocese of Oxford:

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

Those who attended found these courses stimulating and extremely valuable. The speaker generously made copies of all his materials available electronically to all delegates.

In addition to these days, approximately 16 teachers and several members of the SACRE met in March for a workshop day developing sample RE plans using the Milton Keynes Agreed Syllabus for RE. Plans that emerged from this day were later circulated and published on the SACRE website. All these plans exemplified an enquiry focused model of learning, having question titles that combined both strands of RE ie *Learning about religion* and *Learning from religion*.

The success of these days highlighted the value of the SACRE's partnership with the Diocese of Oxford which enabled the continued provision of professional development opportunities for teachers of religious education.

## Keeping up to date

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. The SACRE has been able to consider and respond to a number of issues of concern about RE namely its omission from the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and also from the government's review of the National Curriculum.

The SACRE is aware that it has found its responsibility to monitor the provision and quality of RE and collective worship in Milton Keynes 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 Milton Keynes Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 2011-2012

Representing	Member	Meetings attended
<b>Group A:</b>	<b>Christian denominations and other religions</b>	
Free Churches	Rachel Foster (MK Bridgebuilder Trust)	3/3
Roman Catholic Church	Vacancy	
Baha'i	Latifeh Rowlands	3/3
Buddhism	Vacancy	
Hinduism	Vacancy	
Islam	Vacancy	
Judaism	Zvi Friedman	3/3
Sikhism	Talvinder Kaur Virdee-Basra	2/3
<b>Group B:</b>	<b>The Church of England</b>	
	Rev Paul Smith (Chair)	3/3
	Rev Michael Morris	2/3
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
<b>Group C:</b>	<b>Associations representing teachers</b>	
NUT	Doris Evans	2/3
NASUWT	Vacancy	
NAHT	Vacancy	
ATL	Vacancy	
ACSL	Vacancy	
<b>Group D:</b>	<b>The Local Authority</b>	
	Cllr Bradburn	1/2
	Cllr Miles	0/3
	Cllr Geary	0/3
	Cllr McCall	0/3
<b>Additional Attendees:</b>		
	Andrea Quayle (Humanist)	3/3
	Elaine Lever (Humanist)	2/3
	Ken Harris	1/3
	Lesley Salter	1/1
	Harkirat Singh	1/1
<b>Professional Adviser:</b>	Jo Fageant	3/3
<b>Local Authority Officer:</b>	Matt Grinyer	3/3
<b>Clerk:</b>	Liz Corby	2/3