

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 Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead SACRE works with NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs), the Diocese of Oxford and the five other SACREs in Berkshire.

This report sets out a summary of the work of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead SACRE over the academic year 2018-19. The minutes of the meetings which give more detail can be found at www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/ed_sacre_index.htm

The constitution and terms of reference can be found at:

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/members_constitution.htm

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

The Clerk: Vacant

The Local Authority Officer: clive.haines@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Adviser: anne.andrews@oxford.anglican.org 07884 655097

Advice Offered

- a) Local Authority:
 - The previously proposed changes to the constitution, while approved in principle had still not been formally approved by the LA, so the request has been raised again. SACRE has also requested that the LA look into whether there is or should be a complaints procedure relating to SACRE.
 - At the beginning of the year the LA was again reminded of the need to provide sufficient budget and regular updates to SACRE of the financial situation.
 - Response: The constitution has been sent for approval and regular budget updates were provided for the remainder of the year.
- b) Schools
 - The guidance material produced to support the new Agreed syllabus has been the main source of advice issued to schools, along with recommendations in the newsletters and the termly RE network meetings.
 - Response: Teachers at the network meetings found the guidance helpful and were pleased that there was support with the new syllabus
- c) Government:
 - One of the council members was detailed to write to the Prime Minister regarding some concerns SACRE had on the Commission on RE's report, regarding the issue of Religion and Worldviews terminology
 - Response: SACRE has not been made aware of any response received.

Standards, quality & provision of RE

- a) Public exams:
 - GCSE headlines
 - A level
- b) Attainment in RE:
 - Standards of RE in the four schools that have been inspected under the section 48 SIAMS inspections have been found to be good, and the Agreed syllabus has formed the basis of the RE in all of those schools.
 - It continues to be hard to reach many of the schools. The planned visits by SACRE members to schools, which were intended to be fact finding and observational rather than judgemental have not in fact taken place and the LA does not collect any information about standards in RE outside of national examination results.
- c) Quality of provision:
 - A survey of secondary school websites, looking for evidence of RE and collective worship revealed that many schools do not publish information about their RE provision. This does not mean that they are not offering the subject, but it is not possible to make any judgement about quality of provision from websites.
 - 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.
- d) Withdrawal:
- No schools have sought help with issues surrounding withdrawal from RE.
- e) Complaints:
- No complaints have been received by SACRE about either the quality or provision of RE.

Agreed Syllabus

- a) Date of next review
- Under current legislation the next syllabus review will not take place until 2023
- b) Work has continued to produce guidance material for key stages 1 – 3. Some of this work has been conducted by teachers; some by the adviser to SACRE and as it is a shared syllabus, by the adviser to another Berkshire SACRE. The materials have been made available to schools and are hosted on several SACRE websites and the RE pages of the Diocese of Oxford website.

Standard, quality & provision of Collective Worship

- a) Compliance:
- As stated above, website trawls have not proved to be an effective way of establishing compliance in collective worship, as it is not statutory for schools to display the collective worship policy on their website.
 - The primary schools that have been inspected by SIAMS have all offered good quality collective worship, but as they are Church of England schools, this does not fall under the remit of SACRE.
- b) Quality:
- No information has been obtained on the quality of collective worship. Ofsted reports have not mentioned it.
- c) Determinations:
- No requests for determinations have been received this year and there are no pre-existing determinations to review.
- d) Complaints:
- No complaints have been received about either the standards or quality of CW

Management of SACRE

- a) Attendance:
- Attendance at SACRE meetings continues to be steady and all meetings this year have been quorate.
 - An attempt to hold the summer meeting in a school and receive a presentation from some RE students on a project they were undertaking was abandoned when

insurance and cost issues were raised by the school. The hope is to use a place of worship for one or more of the meetings next year.

b) Membership and training:

- There are still significant numbers of vacancies, particularly in Group C, where attendance has also proved to be a challenge. This reflects that fact that teachers are already under huge amounts of pressure and feel unable to commit time to additional responsibilities. Further members will continue to be sought through the RE network meetings.
- All new members are offered the SACRE members handbook, but no specific training took place this year.
- The decision has been taken to invite a humanist representative to join SACRE as a co-opted member in the first instance, with a view to becoming a full member in due course.
- 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.
- Two members of SACRE were permitted to attend the NASACRE AGM and reported back on their experience at the last meeting of the year.

c) Pan-Berkshire SACRE hub

- Windsor and Maidenhead 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.

d) Complaints:

- No complaints have been received this year about either RE, CW or the operation of SACRE.

Contribution to Local Authority Wider Agenda

a) School support:

- No schools have requested specific support from SACRE, and the LA has not asked SACRE to deal with any issues.
- The advice offered to schools has been detailed above, as have the visits of SACRE members to observe RE lessons.
- SACRE has offered training bursaries of up to £100 to teachers wishing to attend RE training. This has paid for teachers to attend Strictly RE and a Diocesan RE conference.

b) 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 – Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum.

Summary

This has been another challenging year for SACRE, but Windsor and Maidenhead continues to offer support, both financially and with LA officer support, clerking and venues.

Approving the syllabus guidance produced by the Pan-Berkshire SACRE hub and contributing ideas to the bid for the Westhill Award have taken a large amount of SACRE time. SACRE is looking forward to the success of this project, and much of next year's work will focus on the production of these materials.

While the exercise of looking at school websites to find information about RE and collective worship was not as informative, it enabled SACRE members who were less familiar with schools to gain an insight into the type of information that schools display about themselves.

Anne Andrews (Adviser to SACRE)

SACRE membership and Attendance 2018 - 19

Group Represented	Name	8 th November	5 th March	16 th July
Baptist (A)	<i>Vacancy</i>			
Free Church (A)	Clare Theobalds	apologies	P	P
Methodist (A)	Margaret Dudley	Present	A	Present
Roman Catholic Church (A)	Barbara Meaney	present	p	A
Hindu (A)	Ila Gongotra	present	?	?
Islam (A)	Saghir Ahmed	apologies	P	A
Judaism (A)	Hilary Harris	apologies	P	P
Sikh (A)	Ravinder Singh	apologies	P	P
Buddhist (A)	Chris Sayers	present	P	P
Baha'i (A)	Mike Gammage (Chair)	present	P	P
Church of England (B)	Rev Sally Lynch	present		A
Church of England (B)	Rev Rosie Webb	present		Resigned
Church of England (B)	Karen Butler (vice-chair)	present	A	P
Primary (C)	Deborah Firth	apologies		
Primary (C)	<i>Vacancy</i>			Richard Rhodes A
Secondary (C)	<i>Vacancy</i>			
Secondary (C)	<i>Vacancy</i>			
Headteacher/ HoD (C)	Louise Ceska	present	A	P
Headteacher/ HoD (C)	<i>Vacancy</i>			
RBWM (D)	Cllr Mohamad Ilyas	apologies		Donna Stimson
RBWM (D)	Cllr Natasha Airey	apologies	P	Not re elected
RBWM (D)	Cllr Richard Kellaway	present	P	Not re elected
Local Authority Officers:	Clive Haines	apologies	P	P
Professional Advisor:	Anne Andrews	present	P	P
Clerk:	Nabihah Hassan-Farooq	present	P	P

Key:

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