

WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

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INTRODUCTION

FROM THE CHAIR OF SACRE

Thankfully SACRE has been able to continue its work throughout the past academic year, largely uninterrupted by the pandemic public health restrictions. Meetings on Zoom, broadcast on YouTube, seem to have worked very well, especially for teachers who have avoided travel to a meeting at the end of a working day. It seems likely that SACRE will decide to continue with virtual meetings, with perhaps an extended summer meeting being held in-person.

Perhaps SACRE's biggest achievement in this past year has been the creation of a development plan. This has long been agreed as a good idea but circumstances have always prevented its realisation. This year, after a long consultation led by a working group appointed by SACRE but involving all SACRE members, a development plan to summer 2023 was agreed.

The start point of the plan was the identification of five focus areas for SACRE for the period up to Summer 2023, when the updated Agreed Religious Education (RE) Syllabus will be launched for implementation in the academic year beginning September 2023. The plan sets out actions, target outcomes and timescales for each of the five focus areas, as well as the budget implications. In summary, the plan aims to build SACRE's capacity so that it can be more effective in supporting high quality RE teaching and collective worship in schools.

The plan was submitted to the Royal Borough in early September 2021.

A copy of the plan is included as an appendix to this report.

Michael Gammage
Chair, 2020-21

OVERVIEW

Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) SACRE has met four times during the year 2020-21, twice in the autumn term and then in March and June. All meetings during this period were online and broadcast on YouTube by the Local Authority. Most meetings were quorate, though attendance was variable. New council members were not appointed sufficiently quickly, and so the first meeting of the year had no representation from Group D. Changes in personal circumstances led to some resignations and new appointments are anticipated for the next academic year. Some vacancies remain among group A, despite efforts to recruit.

- The September meeting focused on catching up with where schools were at with RE, as attendance at RE network meetings had fallen during the summer term. Updates on the hub, the Real People, Real Faith filming process and SACRE membership were included. A decision was taken to put together a more focused forward plan. SACRE again decided to use some funds to pay for teachers to attend national training events such as Strictly RE.
- The meeting in December discussed the launch of the secondary network, which had not attracted good attendance, the distribution of the SACRE newsletter, SACRE budget and the embryonic forward plan. There was a report from those attending the NASACRE Extraordinary General Meeting. Reports from the schools showed how varied the disruption caused by the pandemic has been, with some schools and classes carrying on as usual, and others struggling. One of the KS3 teachers and a clergy member of Group B are planning to make a film about communion for secondary schools.
- In March, there was feedback from delegates who had attended Strictly RE, a progress update on the Westhill films and plans for the launch. There was also further discussion of how to monitor RE as part of the forward plan, and discussion about how to begin to plan for the syllabus review. It was decided to continue collaboration with the Pan-Berkshire hub.
- The June meeting received initial feedback from the NASACRE Freedom of Information about funding, but in the absence of the LA officer further information was not received, apart from the fact that SACRE was funded from the General Fund, not the Dedicated Schools Grant. A summary of the Ofsted Research review was also presented, along with some suggested implications for the work of SACRE, particularly with regard to the forthcoming syllabus review. Updates on the filming project, the hub and feedback from the NASACRE Annual General Meeting were also included.
- There is no Agreed Syllabus Conference sitting at the moment.

RE (STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES):

THE LOCAL AGREED SYLLABUS AND RE

SACRE does not have up to date information about which schools are using the Pan-Berkshire Locally Agreed Syllabus, as visits and face to face meetings have not been possible. The planned syllabus review will begin with a survey to find out as much information as possible about the use of the syllabus. One school contacted SACRE as the new RE leader found there was no KS3 curriculum, and initial support was offered.

STANDARDS AND MONITORING OF RE

The absence of Ofsted and SIAMS reports during the year 2020-21 has made the monitoring of RE difficult, and while the Centre Assessed Grades from the Summer of 2020 showed that attainment was quite high, the data was not able to be compared with previous years attainment. The Local Authority were reluctant to pursue schools that appeared not to be delivering RE or entering pupils for GCSE or A levels as they felt the priorities lay elsewhere.

One secondary school applied for and achieved REQM status at Gold Level.

TEACHER TRAINING, MATERIALS AND ADVICE OFFERED

Despite the lockdown, the main teacher training events, the RE networks have been fairly well attended as they have been delivered online. The first session explored ways to get RE back onto the curriculum and how to identify and address gaps in learning. The second session looked at how to plan a coherent curriculum in RE and in the summer term we explored the different types of knowledge, relating to the Ofsted RE Research review and linking specifically to the Pan-Berkshire Locally Agreed syllabus.

- 15 October 2020 – Putting RE back on the map – a twilight session looking at how schools can reintegrate RE into their curriculum.
- 25 February 2021 – Designing a coherent Curriculum – a twilight session on the need to ensure coherence as the key to effective quality first teaching.
- 30 June 2021 – RE, Ofsted, Knowledge and Worldviews – a response to the Ofsted RE Research Review

In April the Westhill funded films, Real People, Real Faith were launched at an online event, with members of RWBM SACRE and schools in attendance.

The termly newsletter has continued to offer schools support in term of resources, information about training, local Inter-faith events and articles about the Ofsted Research review and summaries of the RE network meetings.

SACRE has received no information from the LA on withdrawals from RE and no requests to assist schools with this issue.

The LA has been advised that some schools seem to be in breach of the requirements to provide RE to all, especially at KS4, as the data from NATRE revealed that many schools offered a nil return on the school workforce data collection. This was not deemed to be a good time to pursue such matters and SACRE plans to find a better way to monitor the situation as a core part of the forward plan.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES):

STANDARDS AND MONITORING OF CW

With no Ofsted or SIAMS reports monitoring of collective worship has been anecdotal, relying on teacher representatives on SACRE sharing their experience. The picture, as for RE is very mixed, with some schools making more time and space for CW, because of the link with wellbeing, while others found that not being able to meet together made the experience less valuable and so did not give it a high priority.

DETERMINATIONS

There are no current determinations, and none have been applied for in the year 2020-21. The determination policy can be found on the [RBWM council website](#).

TEACHER TRAINING PROVIDED

No training has been provided for collective worship this academic year, but there have been articles linking collective worship and wellbeing in the SACRE newsletter, alongside links to websites and new resources. There is a guidance and sample policy document available on the [RBWM council website](#).

OTHER INFORMATION

SACRE has not been made aware of any complaints about collective worship or withdrawals from collective worship.

ADVICE TO THE LA

No advice on collective worship has been offered to the LA except that included in the SACRE newsletters.

LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

NATIONAL BODIES

SACRE has links with NASACRE, and members have attended the NASACRE EGM and AGM. SACRE proposed the adviser to SACRE for a role on the NASACRE executive and the nominee was elected.

RE networks are NATRE linked, and SACRE funded teachers to attend national training events such as Strictly RE. NATRE also hosts the Westhill Award funded film project, Real People, Real Faith on their website.

LOCAL BODIES

RBWM SACRE continues to work with the Pan-Berkshire SACRE hub on the Real People, Real Faith films and resources and is planning to continue collaboration on the next syllabus review. A pan-Berkshire BlogSpot has been created by the chair of one of the other local SACREs.

SACRE INVOLVEMENT LOCALLY

SACRE has not been involved in any governor training this year.

The newsletters have included articles from local groups about the value of education in their traditions. SACRE advertises the Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum inter-faith events and some members attend the discussion sessions.

SACRE'S OWN ARRANGEMENTS (STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES):

RBWM SACRE continues to fund a professional adviser for 5.5 days per year, a clerk and an LA officer. Chair, vice chair and adviser meet to plan agendas.

Membership, which until recently has been consistent has undergone some changes this year and some vacancies remain unfilled, particularly among the free churches. At the beginning of the year a complete change of group D representation led to a non-quorate meeting and the LA was advised that new members need to be appointed as soon as possible. This was duly done, and all group D places are filled. During the course of the year there have been some resignations, particularly in Group C, but online meetings have also drawn two new teachers to join.

No specific training has been offered to SACRE during the academic year 2020-21

Budget:

Reimburse schools for conf 30th &31st Jan 21	100
RE Adviser Support for SACRE 11 days for 2 years	4,400
Attendance at the NNASACRE Conference and AGM 24th May 2021	60
Pan Berks SACRE Hub	500
Annual subs 21-22	105
One-off fee for the 2021-22 virtual training package	50
	5,215

APPENDICES

Table of GCSE – short and full, A/S & A Level RS results – not available this academic year

Details on CPD provided to schools

Draft 2020-23 Forward plan

Circulation details for this AR - LA, Schools, Libraries, NASACRE, DfE, SACRE members – anyone else

Sample CPD offer:

RE NETWORK MEETING
Wednesday 30 June
4–5.30 pm on
Zoom

achieving
for children

**RE, Ofsted,
Knowledge &
Worldviews**

The impact of
current
thinking on
curriculum
design

www.rbwm.gov.uk

Royal Borough
of Windsor &
Maidenhead

To book contact:
anne.andrews@oxford.anglican.org

Objective	Success criteria	Person responsible	Date	Notes
1. Launch a separate RE network for secondary school teachers, with meetings at least once a term.	The focus would be on secondary RE practitioners sharing best practice	Tom Kingsley-Jones Barbara Meaney	Termly	On Zoom for the foreseeable future, but possibly permanently as teachers have so little time and Zoom is so efficient
2. Continue the RE network for primary school teachers, again on Zoom and once a term.	And again, the focus would be on RE practitioners sharing best practice. Most teachers attending on a regular basis	Anne Andrews	Termly	
3. Continue to develop the SACRE newsletter	Make it the go-to place for teachers to find the latest and local resources for RE and Collective Worship (and make sure that it reaches every school and RE teacher).	Anne Andrews	Termly	SACRE members to contribute where possible.
4. Support SACRE hub to create resources to support the Westhill films	Working groups of teachers established to produce lesson notes, ideas, and activities to support the films			
5. Support SACRE hub to create more films	Catholic, Sunni, Gurdwara (if needed) and other films as appropriate			This will depend on hub funding and on availability of film maker
6. Encourage schools and teachers to come to SACRE when they need local resources either for RE or CW	Efficient user friendly SACRE website Use the newsletter to promote SACRE Get the resource centre back up and running	???	Ongoing	SACRE faith representatives should be encouraged to see themselves as facilitators
7. Prepare to talk to SACRE hub about upcoming syllabus review	ASC established and review underway		Sept 21	If we are to launch syllabus in 2023 (as required by law) we need to begin review process by Sept 21...)
8. Get SACRE members to contribute to collective worship.	Create some virtual assemblies Open the Book on film Film a real life assembly.	SACRE members to contact faith communities.		SACRE faith representatives should be encouraged to see themselves as facilitators, helping teachers to rapidly identify local people in a faith community who can provide the support that they need
9. Host a SACRE event for secondary teachers on	All secondary school teachers attending a virtual conference and more schools entering pupils at "A" Level	???? LA	Summer 2021?	We may need to ascertain from teachers whether this or another topic might be most useful.

'Freedom of Speech: Faith Perspectives'.			Could this become a regular feature?	
10. Create a bank of resources for "A" Level RS	Website to host a range of "A" level resources	???	Summer 2021	This could be done through the secondary RE networks.