

Wokingham SACRE

(Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)

How do we support teachers in their quest
for excellent Religious Education for all
children and young people in Wokingham?

A Journey in Ten Steps

Michael Freeman: Chair of SACRE

Jan Lever: Consultant to SACRE

(on behalf of Wokingham Borough Council)



Which is the odd one out?



If Jesus came back to earth,
which of these would he use?

Why?



Wokingham SACRE support for teachers:

The Journey so far...



Ten Steps...



The context of our journey:

National Picture:

It is a statutory subject BUT...

...it sits outside the National Curriculum
and is locally determined.

‘RE must be taught to all registered pupils in
maintained school except those withdrawn by
their parents’

The Education Act, 2002, section 80

The SACRE's duty is to monitor and SUPPORT



The essential support must have regard to:

- a) **RE in English Schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010**
(Wokingham agreed syllabus follows the above)
- b) **A curriculum framework for RE in England 2013**
(still non-statutory) **Religious Education Council**
(with foreword by Michael Gove)
- c) **All Party Parliamentary Group formed 2013**
- d) **Ofsted reports on RE: 2010 and 2013**
- e) **ESAG Expert Subject Advisory Group formed 2014**
(to issue guidance 2014-15)



RE: realising the potential (Ofsted 2013)

Weaknesses include:

- Teachers' understanding of the subject
- Lack of emphasis on pupils' subject knowledge
- Fragmented curriculum planning
- Weak assessment
- Ineffective monitoring
- Limited access to training

Enquiry approach recommended

SACRE action plan tries to address this. HOW?



The Journey so far

Step 1

Provide an RE Trail to help teachers make the most of LOTC (learning outside the classroom) taking children on a walking tour of Wokingham sites/places of worship.

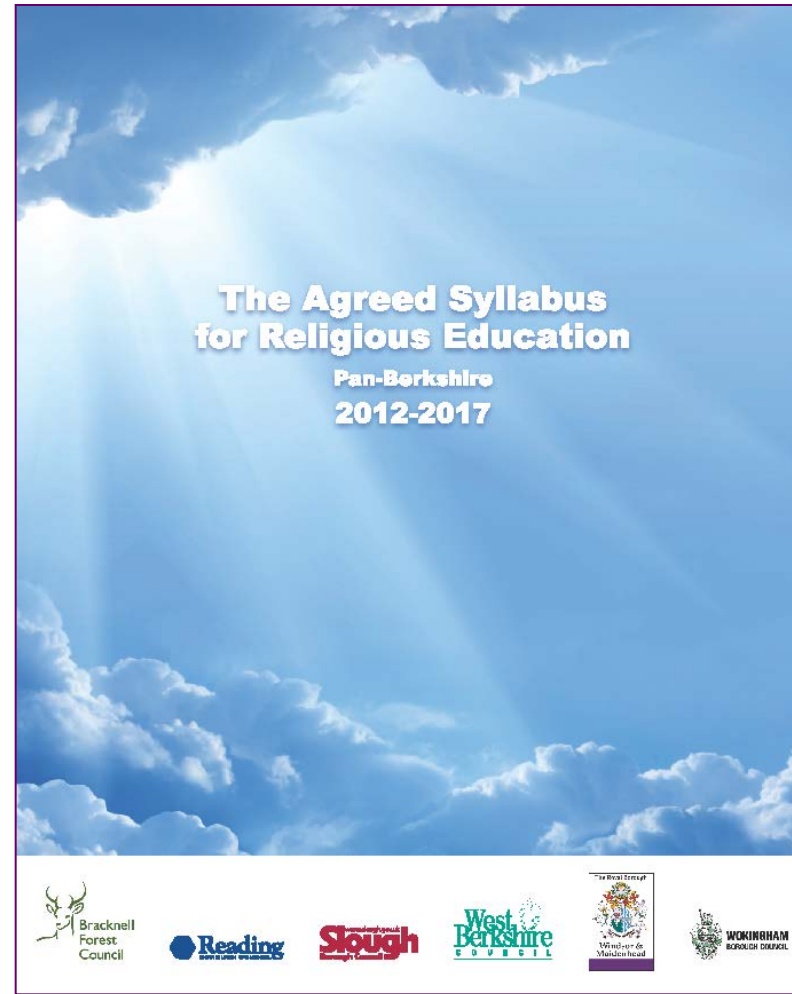
Beautifully designed/Launched
Online and hard copy

Outcome?



The Journey so far

Step 2



Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for RE 2012-17

- Consultation with teachers!
- All 6 SACREs collaborated

Result:

User-friendly

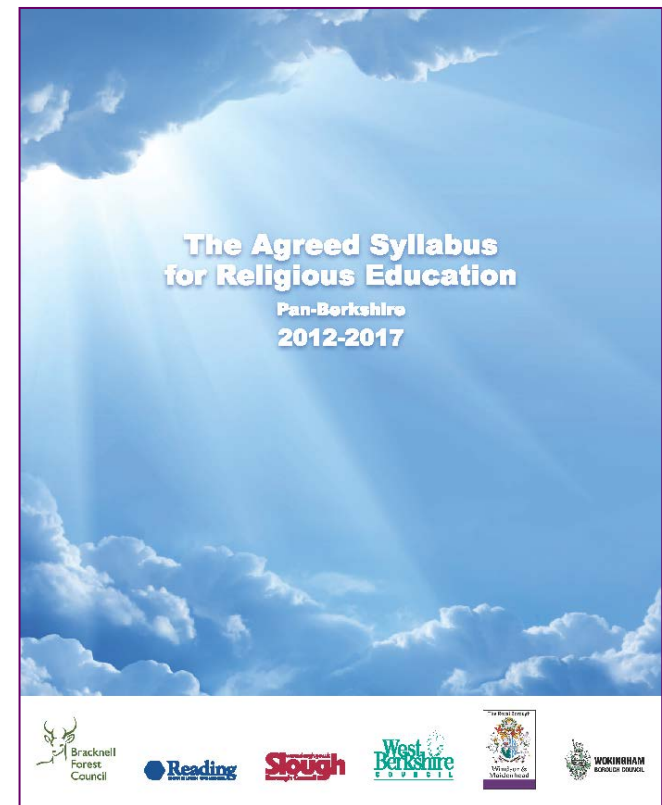
Colour-coded Key Stages

Statutory Requirements concise

Enquiry model recommended

Very well-presented

CDROM and hard copy



The Journey so far

Step 3

Revised Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus presented across Berkshire by:

- ~conferences
- ~head teachers' and governors' fora
- ~training in schools
- ~signposting to teaching resources

Joint Reading and Wokingham conference
hosted by Reading SACRE member (Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter Day Saints) and funded by LAs

Outcome?



The Journey so far

Step 4 **Teacher/SACRE Network Meetings** (termly for both Primary and Secondary)

- Hosted by schools
- Secondary run jointly with Reading
- Led by RE Consultant/ SACRE members attend as well

Format:

- National and local updates
- Mini INSET (focus decided by teachers)
- Share concerns and good practice/ideas
- Share teaching resources

**Feed back suggestions for support to SACRE to
inform the SACRE Action Plan**

Outcome?



The Journey so far

Step 5 Build the bridge between schools and the SACRE

Network meetings/tea party at Rabbi's home/
consultant/teacher presentations at SACRE
meetings/shared events /leaflet



Outcome?



The Journey so far

Step 6 Faith Tours CPD 'on location'



Outcome?



The Journey so far

Step 7 Annual conferences:

1. Joint Wokingham and Reading RE Conference for secondary teachers
2. Pan-Berkshire 6 –SACRES' conference to ensure members are mutually informed and discuss collaboration.
This June's agenda: to discuss and plan the Berkshire Hub.



The Journey so far

Step 8

Development of additional website space for RE on the Wokingham Borough website:

Share ideas/good practice

SACRE and Faith calendar: local and national events and festival dates/ directory of places of worship in Wokingham and surrounding area.

Future plans include: pilot scheme for faith ambassadors, students on SACRE, and directory of speakers.

Outcome?



The Journey so far

Step 9 New SACRE leaflet/flyer (draft shown)



What is a SACRE?

Every Local Authority is legally obliged to set up, support and maintain its own SACRE; this is a council with a specific constitution bringing together elected members of local government, teachers, members of faith and belief communities and where possible, students.

What must a SACRE do?

The remit of a SACRE is twofold: to monitor and support the delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship in the schools in that area and to provide the locally agreed syllabus for RE, which is reviewed every 5 years.

Who are the members of the Wokingham SACRE?

Group A	
Buddhism	Vacancy
Free Churches	Catherine Jinkerson
Hinduism	Anju Sharma
Islam	Shahid Younis
Judaism	Dr Shira Lewin Solomons
Roman Catholic Church	Kathy Turner
Sikhism	Sukhdev Bansal
Group B The Church of England	
	Rev Lisa Cornwell
	Father Patrick King
	Jo Fageant - SIAMS Manager and Principal RE Adviser, Diocese of Oxford
Group C Associations representing teachers	
ASCL	Hilary Winter
ATL	Michael Freeman (Chair)
NAHT	Lesley Green
NAS/UWT	Sue Cresswell
NUT	Stephen Vegh
Group D The Authority	
	Cllr David Lee
	Cllr Beth Rowland (Vice-chair)
Clerk to the SACRE	Anne Coffey
Consultant to SACRE	Jan Lever

The Wokingham SACRE appreciates and benefits from ongoing funding and support from the LA, and works closely with the Diocese of Oxford and faith and belief communities including inter-faith fora.

It is also a member of NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs) and members attend annual conferences and annual general meetings.

What does the Wokingham SACRE do?

The main responsibility of the SACRE is to provide a locally agreed syllabus for Religious Education for the schools in the area. This must be reviewed every 5 years and it is the obligation of each LA school to fulfil the requirements set out in it. Academies are welcome to use it too, whilst they must also provide RE for their pupils, they have autonomy in terms of the syllabus they follow and the scheme of work they devise. However, many academies choose to follow the locally agreed syllabus.

Likewise, many faith schools choose to adopt their locally agreed syllabus even though their RE may be more aligned to their faith and/or denomination e.g. many Church schools follow the agreed syllabus whilst supplementing it with additional material on Christianity.

The Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for RE was launched in 2012 and will be reviewed in 2017.

The syllabus has been very well-received and the enquiry-based model it recommends is proving valuable in improving children's and young people's critical and evaluative thinking with regard to religion and belief, both their own and others.

wsh.wokingham.gov.uk/learning-and-teaching/religious-education (click here)

How does the Wokingham SACRE support schools to implement the agreed syllabus successfully?

The Wokingham SACRE is a proactive council that does its best to listen to teachers and headteachers as to the nature of the support that would be most useful to them in taking RE learning forward. The SACRE's action plan reflects this support.

- The Wokingham RE Trail supporting the teaching of Christianity
- Contact with members of faith and belief communities
- Visits to places of worship to provide 'on location' training for teachers, encourage them to take children on educational visits
- wsh.wokingham.gov.uk/learning-and-teaching/religious-education/sacre (click here)
- Provision of teaching resources derived from the visits e.g. CD-ROMs, slides and images of local places of worship (all schools were given these)
- Support for both primary and secondary teachers of RE in the form of:
 - termly teacher network meetings led by the SACRE's RE Consultant
 - the Wokingham and Reading SACREs subsidise a joint annual RE conference for secondary school RE teachers

Further support planned for 2014-15

- Primary RE Subject Leader/co-ordinator training/support sessions: Autumn
- Termly network meetings (Dates sent to all schools)
- CPD Trip to places of worship focusing on Christianity and Hinduism: Autumn
- Annual Secondary RE conference
- New flier for Chairs of Governors, Headteachers and RE Subject Leaders about the SACRE

Outcome?



The Journey so far

Step 10 Spread the word!

The SACRE Roadshow

- Chairs of Governors
- NASACRE
- Wokingham Borough Council...full Council meeting (in presence of the Mayor)
- Secondary Head teachers' meeting



Outcome?



The Journey continues...

Next steps...

- Explore Faith Ambassadors Scheme
- Keep listening to teachers to inform action plans
PLUS all of the above!

Outcome?

Ever closer working relationship between the SACRE and schools to make best use of limited resources by sharing and collaboration:

- School - SACRE
- School- School
- SACRE-SACRE

Why?



**To keep improving RE learning
for our children and young
people.**

**Thank you
from Wokingham SACRE**

Have you any questions?



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