



Annual SACRE Report

2013-2014

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 Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead 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 Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead SACRE over the academic year 2013-2014. The minutes of the meetings which give more detail can be found at www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/ed_sacre_index.htm

The make up 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:

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The RBWM SACRE

Reflecting established practice three meetings were held during the reporting year:

12 December 2013

5 March 2014 and

9 June 2014

This year the Chairmanship has varied from meeting to meeting. The SACRE welcomed a new Roman Catholic representative in Caroline Johnson. Members were pleased that, following his retirement from headship, Dalwyn Atwell was able to continue his considerable service to the SACRE by transferring from representing the NAHT to being a representative in Group A of the Free Churches. However, this further compounded the serious shortage of teacher representation in Group C. The SACRE was grateful for the appointment of Robert Cowan as a consistent Clerk throughout the year. During the year the local authority agreed to an amendment of the constitution of the SACRE to include representatives of Buddhism and the Baha'i faith in Group A. Members also requested that representatives should be appointed for a fixed term of four years' service with no limit on the number of times each could be re-nominated and appointed. Jo Fageant, long serving adviser to the RBWM SACRE, reported that she would be retiring at Easter 2015 and the SACRE would need to give consideration to her replacement.

The SACRE has a responsibility to monitor the provision and quality of RE and collective worship in the Borough's schools. 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, 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.

Partnership working

Jo Fageant, then a representative of the Church of England on the SACRE, attended the NASACRE AGM in May. The day provided a very up-beat perspective on RE with Stephen Lloyd MP speaking passionately about the work of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on RE of which he is the Chair and of the increasingly widespread recognition of the importance of the subject. Workshop discussions highlighted excellent practice in SACREs around the country and provided RBWM with a number of interesting ideas to consider.

The conference held on 25th June for the six SACREs of the 'Berkshire' area debated the possibility of partnership working across the region in response to a new national initiative to create regional hubs in support of RE. The idea received a positive response and it was agreed that a meeting would be convened early in the 2014/15 academic year to draft a proposal which could be developed into a bid for funding to support whatever work was envisaged.

On-going initiatives

Work on providing information about places of worship in the borough together with advice on how they might be relevant to the locally agreed syllabus for RE and what support each might be able to offer to schools is continuing.

Schools are also considering the practicalities of initiating a 'young ambassadors' scheme. The SACRE will give further consideration to both these issues in the next academic year.

It was not possible to repeat the film festival which has been such a great success in the past. This is a very costly project and has been possible in the past through grant funding from the NASACRE/Westhill alliance. Without the additional funding and with limited in-house capacity it

was decided that the SACRE could not manage to organise this again this year. Members discussed the importance of religious education support for newly qualified teachers and asked the local authority to consider including this in their training provision.

Religious education in 2013/14

This was a year in which there were many developments in RE that the SACRE needed to consider.

In October Ofsted published a new long report on RE (<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/surveys-and-good-practice/r/Religious%20education%20-%20realising%20the%20potential.pdf>). Members were disappointed to see how many issues were those already raised in the 2010 report. Although no RBWM schools had been inspected as part of the evidence base for the report, it nevertheless highlighted a number of issues the SACRE recognised as helpful in developing a plan for future action. The report from the (APPG) on RE (http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/media/file/APPG_RE_one_page_summary.pdf) highlighted challenges relating to initial and on-going training of teachers in RE. Alert to this the SACRE was pleased that RBWM had made it possible for regular termly meetings led by a RE specialist adviser to take place. Members were also pleased to be able to provide an extremely successful conference in March led by high profile RE specialists from the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE). Teachers from both secondary and primary schools benefitted from this opportunity. They also received a grant from the SACRE which made it possible for them to purchase resources to enrich the provision in their schools.

A significant outcome of the APPG report was the publication of two documents one for primary and one for secondary providing guidance for governors on their statutory responsibilities in relation to religious education. The SACRE considered these documents and advised the local authority that they should be distributed to all RBWM schools. The SACRE has received no response from schools in relation to this.

The SACRE considered the curriculum review of RE report (<http://resubjectreview.recouncil.org.uk/re-review-report>) published by the RE Council of England and Wales (REC). Members accepted that they would need to understand the document and be aware of wider responses to it in the RE community in preparation for the next review of the local RE syllabus due in 2017. To support their planning of RE lessons a number of schools have chosen to purchase Jan Lever's *Discovery* resource (<http://www.discoveryschemeofwork.com/>) and have found it very helpful. In addition, in July, the Diocese of Oxford published a scheme of work, specifically designed to support the Pan Berkshire syllabus, for Years 1-6. It was made freely available to all Church of England schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement and at a cost of £200 to all other primary schools (www.oxford.anglican.org).

Collective Worship

Only one determination has ever been sought by a RBWM school. This was granted during the academic year 2012-2013. This year the school advised the SACRE that the determination was no longer required. Members discussed the wisdom of providing training and/or advice for collective worship and agreed this should be explored in the next academic year.

Membership of RBWM Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

2013-2014

Representing	Member	Meetings attended
Group A:	Christian denominations and other religions	
Free Churches	Nick Lowe	3/3
	Melody Erasmus	0/3
	Dalwyn Attwell	1/3
Roman Catholic Church	Caroline Johnson	1/3
Baha'i	Michael Gammage	2/3
Buddhist	Anthea West (only just appointed)	0/0
Hinduism	Ila Gangotra	2/3
Islam	Mr Saghir Ahmed	1/3
Judaism	Mrs Hilary Harris	1/3
<i>Sikhism</i>	<i>Mr Jasvinder Bhogal</i>	0/3
Group B:	The Church of England	
	Felicity Gunn	2/3
	Rev Joan Hicks	1/3
	Karen Butler	2/3
Group C:	Associations representing teachers	
NASUWT	Vacancy	
NAHT	Vacancy	
ATL	Vacancy	
VOICE	Vacancy	
BASH	Mrs Louise Ceska	2/3
NUT	Mrs Fiona Smith	2/2
Group D:	The Local Authority	
	Cllr Dee Quick	1/3
	Cllr Natasha Airey	3/3
	Cllr Richard Kellaway	3/3
Co-opted members:	Mr Michael Gammage	2/3
Local Authority Officer:	Mr Simon Evry	2/3
Professional Adviser:	Ms Jo Fageant	3/3
Clerk:	Robert Cowan	3/3