

Public Document Pack

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

will meet on Thursday, 9th December, 2021

at 6.00 pm

VIRTUAL MEETING - ONLINE ACCESS ON ZOOM AND
STREAMED LIVE ON [YOUTUBE](#)

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12.	Update on Development of Secondary RE Network	Verbal Report
13.	SACRE Development Plan to Summer 2023: Update on approval by RBWM	Verbal Report
14.	Update on Pan-Berkshire Hub collaboration	Verbal Report

15.	SACRE Newsletter January 2022	Verbal Report
16.	Any Other Business	-
17.	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 24th March 2022 at 6pm – Zoom • TBC June/July 2022 at 6pm – In person? • TBC September 2022 at 6pm – Zoom • TBC December 2022 at 6pm – Zoom <p>In September 2021, Full Council agreed the split between virtual and in person meetings. For SACRE, it was encouraged to have meetings virtually, with one per year in person.</p>	-

Members of the Press and Public are welcome to attend this meeting.

Mark Beeley - Democratic Services

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Issued: 1st December 2021

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ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

13 September 2021

PRESENT: Michael Gammage (Chairman), Karen Butler (Vice-Chairman), Chris Sayers, Saghir Ahmed, Margaret Dudley, Hilary Harris, Anthony Lewis, Barbara Meaney, Richard Rhodes, Maggie Callaghan, Thomas Kingsley-Jones, Sarah Bradley, Councillor Donna Stimson, Councillor Julian Sharpe and Councillor Shamsul Shelim

Also in attendance: Councillor Gurpreet Bhangra and Councillor Mandy Brar

Officers in attendance: Mark Beeley and Anne Andrews

ACTION

1 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Barbara Meaney proposed Michael Gammage for the position of Chairman, this was seconded by Margaret Dudley.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Michael Gammage was elected Chairman of SACRE for the 2021/22 academic year.

Barbara Meaney proposed Karen Butler for the position of Vice Chairman, this was seconded by Michael Gammage.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Karen Butler was elected Vice Chairman of SACRE for the 2021/22 academic year.

2 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

3 Reflection

Saghir Ahmed gave the opening reflection from a Muslim perspective.

4 Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Darcy Chesterfield-Terry, Ravinder Singh, Clive Haines, Clare Roberts and Ila Gangotra.

5 Membership Update

The Chairman confirmed that Sally Lynch had stepped down from SACRE, as had Louise Ceska due to her retirement.

Maggie Callaghan had joined SACRE as the new BASH representative and the Chairman welcomed her to the meeting.

Karen Butler expressed concern that there were a number of vacancies on the SACRE membership which had been vacant for some time.

ACTION – Mark Beeley to circulate the latest membership list to members and ask that if anyone was interested, or knew anyone that would be interested, to get in touch.

Anne Andrews said that she had emailed for Sally Lynch's replacement but had not yet heard back. She would do a follow up email to the RE network to see if anyone was interested.

6 Minutes Of Meeting on 17/06/21

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2021 were approved, providing the following amendment was made:

- In the Forward Plan agenda item, it was noted that Barbara Meaney was part of the discussions along with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Anne Andrews.

Karen Butler asked if there had been an update on developing a system to track the number of people who had watched the films on the NATRE website.

Anne Andrews explained that NATRE staff had been off over the summer but she would look into it. She confirmed that the funding from the disbanding of the Reading Faith Forum had been received, which would be used for the next set of films.

ACTION – Anne Andrews to speak to NATRE about whether the number of people watching the films could be tracked.

Karen Butler asked if the latest SACRE newsletter had been sent out to schools and whether Clare Roberts had received it.

Richard Rhodes confirmed that schools had received the newsletter.

7 Forward Plan

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the order of agenda items was changed, so that the Forward Plan was considered first.

The Chairman explained that he had worked with Karen Butler, Anne Andrews and Barbara Meaney on the plan, which had been attached to the agenda. They were happy to take any ideas that SACRE members had and incorporate them into the forward plan.

The Chairman shared his screen so that members could see the document and he talked through each section of the plan.

Councillor Sharpe said it was a good piece of work and asked to what extent would the plan be supported by schools.

Barbara Meaney said that some teachers were constantly monitoring RE, the problem was getting all teachers to do it. The plan should be viewed in a positive light, SACRE was there to support teachers.

Richard Rhodes said the sharing of information was not the problem but RE did vary from school to school. The leadership forum was a good place for the forward plan to be discussed as headteachers could talk through any issues.

Maggie Callaghan said that the actions were the hardest bit. It did depend on how RE was delivered, the plan would allow SACRE to understand the level of commitment to RE in schools.

Thomas Kingsley-Jones mentioned the quality of monitoring of RE in schools and that there could often be a 'fear' associated with monitoring but it did not have to be like that. Constructive criticism would be good to help improvement.

Sarah Bradley said that teacher networks were great, monitoring would take different levels as some schools did not value RE as much as other schools.

Anthony Lewis asked how the plan could be inclusive of non-religious elements.

Anne Andrews explained that collective worship enabled all to join as everyone was invited, although it was not compulsory. Schools were encouraged to be thought provoking rather than leading pupils to believe in a particular set of beliefs.

Hilary Harris said that the objectives seemed clear, she was interested in how the mechanics of the funding for the plan would work.

The Chairman said that SACRE wanted to see more action and that it played a key role in ensuring the quality of RE in schools was a high level.

Margaret Dudley said that the plan looked really good.

The Chairman asked SACRE members to provide any further feedback in the next couple of weeks.

Anne Andrews mentioned the survey which was due to be sent out to secondary teachers. She asked if SACRE approved of the questions being asked.

The Chairman suggested it would be useful to show the questions to Maggie Callaghan, who was attending her first SACRE meeting. It was agreed that the questions would be circulated to all SACRE members after the meeting.

ACTION – Mark Beeley to circulate secondary school teachers survey questions to SACRE members after the meeting.

Councillor Sharpe said consideration needed to be given on how the plan would be delivered to ensure that it was carried out effectively.

8 Visits to schools

Anthony Lewis said that he had a booking to go into LVS in Ascot, he felt that schools were beginning to make contact again after the pandemic.

9 NASACRE Training Offer

Anne Andrews explained that NASACRE were providing an extensive training programme, with the details for each event being provided in the agenda. SACRE were looking to take advantage of an offer where for a one-off fee, an unlimited number of SACRE members could attend training events.

The first session was on Thursday 23rd September 2021 and was an introduction for those who had recently joined SACRE. If anyone was interested, they should email mark.beeley@rbwm.gov.uk.

10 NASACRE/NATRE RE Data

Anne Andrews explained that the data had been compiled from results from the exams earlier in the summer. The percentage of pupils entering for the full RE course was only 23% in RBWM compared to 39% nationally. The school workforce data had been circulated separately, which investigated whether pupils achieved good levels of attainment where large numbers of pupils had been entered onto the RE course. There was a link between the number of entries and grade levels, the higher number of entries, the higher percentage of good grades. Some schools had a very limited offering of RE, Anne Andrews had discussed this with the relevant representatives on SACRE. The figures were fairly consistent and it was clear that some schools were not offering RE correctly.

Chris Sayers, Maggie Callaghan and Councillor Shelim left the meeting.

Karen Butler said that the NATRE data was very powerful, it was interesting to see that there was a link with more people taking RE meaning there was a better probability of higher grades. She suggested that it would be good to take the findings to a BASH meeting.

Anne Andrews added that where senior leaders supported RE, better RE was taught. She said that she would be happy to attend a BASH meeting to discuss the findings.

Councillor Stimson said that children had the right to feel safe and she felt that those schools that were not offering good quality RE were letting the side down. It was important to discover why schools were missing out.

The Chairman agreed that all members echoed Councillor Stimson's concerns. The world was multi-religious and RE played a key role in equipping children in how to handle the world.

Richard Rhodes believed that RE was there to help children become aware of things and explore new ideas.

Anne Andrews said that it was important to understand that it was not about criticising schools, SACRE wanted to help them to deliver a good quality of education. It was about helping children prepare for living in a multi-secular world.

Saghir Ahmed left the meeting.

11 NATRE commentary on GCSE examination entry and results

This was considered as part of the item above.

12 Update from Thomas Kingsley-Jones and Darcy Chesterfield-Terry on the church filming project

Thomas Kingsley-Jones gave an update on the filming project with Darcy Chesterfield-Terry. The first film was complete and had the title 'a conservation with' and was based around a conversation about Christianity. It looked to mirror the content of the RE course. They were looking to film the next part in due course.

The Chairman said it was a great initiative and that he looked forward to seeing the film.

13 SACRE Newsletter

Anne Andrews said that the newsletter had been sent to all schools and SACRE members and was also included in the agenda pack. She said it would be great if members could send her items of interest for inclusion in future newsletters. It could also be a good opportunity to showcase some of the work which was taking place in schools.

Karen Butler said that the newsletter was very informative and that it included a number of links to useful resources. She had been able to join the recent RE primary network meeting. The topics discussed had been summarised in the newsletter along with some worked examples, which was really helpful.

14 Update from July Hub Meeting

Karen Butler said that a significant amount of time had been spent discussing the syllabus review and that it was important to be flexible on timings. The issue of funding was also discussed and whether SACREs would be able to support the Hub, Anne Andrews would be working with other advisors on this. Questions had been framed which would be sent out to schools to understand what needed to be changed about the current syllabus.

Anne Andrews explained that on the timeline of the syllabus review, the Hub agreed that it needed to be fluid. It was planned for the survey to be sent out at some point in October which would focus on the syllabus review. Nothing would be finalised until the survey data had been analysed, SACREs could then decide what the best approach was. The review was due to take place in 2023 and would be funded from the existing contributions each SACRE paid to the Hub.

Another update from the Hub was that new films would be produced from the Catholic church, the Hub had been given £2,000 by the Reading Faith Forum so more films were planned.

15 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

16 Dates Of Future Meetings

The next SACRE meeting would take place on Thursday 9th December 2021, starting at 6pm.

The meeting, which began at 6.00 pm, ended at 7.40 pm

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WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

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INTRODUCTION

FROM THE CHAIR OF SACRE

- welcoming new members, celebrating successes, thanks, etc.

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
Finance given to SACRE for its work- Clive Haines to add budget information for 2020-21

APPENDICES

Table of GCSE – short and full, A/S & A Level RS results – not available this academic year
Details on CPD provided to schools - should we attach the newsletters or a link to the newsletters if they are on the website?
Any LA/SACRE policy statements on RE or CW – Clive Haines to advise
Development plan tied to funding – Michael Gammage to provide...
Circulation details for this AR - LA, Schools, Libraries, NASACRE, DfE, SACRE members – anyone else