



Annual SACRE Report 2019-20

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: Mark Beeley: mark.beeley@rbwm.gov.uk

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

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

Introduction from the Chair

Advice Offered

a) Local Authority:

- The news from NATRE that some schools nationally had had poor Ofsted inspection grades because RE was not being taught or not taught with sufficient breadth was shared and it was agreed to ensure that the SACRE newsletter alerted schools again to their requirements to teach RE to all and provide a daily act of collective worship.
- Post Covid-19 the LA has been informed of the expectation that RE should quickly be restored to full curriculum delivery when schools restart fully.

b) Schools

- Support and advice are offered to schools through the RE Network meetings and the newsletters.
- All three planned network meetings took place, though the content of the summer term meeting had to be altered. The first of the year gave teachers an opportunity to share resources and teaching materials that they found useful, while the second focused on the question of Intent in the RE curriculum and schools were advised that the curriculum for RE needed to be coherent and show the way that units of work linked to each other. The third was going to focus on implementation and impact but instead focused on resources for teaching online and CPD for teachers.
- The SACRE newsletters have offered information on training courses available locally, Ofsted, festivals, Inter-faith week, resources for online teaching and CPD, collective worship and the work of SACRE.

c) Government:

- No correspondence with the government has taken place.

Standards, quality & provision of RE

a) Public exams:

- GCSE headlines -
- A level

b) Attainment in RE:

- With the closure of schools to all but the most vulnerable and key worker children, there is no way of ascertaining the standards reached in RE outside of examination groups.

c) Quality of provision:

- SACRE sent a questionnaire to schools in the latter half of the academic year to find out about provision in RE during the period of reduced schooling. 10 schools responded, though 8 of those were Church of England schools outside the direct responsibility of SACRE. The conclusion reached by SACRE is that it is likely that schools only responded where they were complying with the legal requirements. All of those that responded were offering RE either online or in class and in some cases both. There are concerns that learning may have been lost, but a recognition that the true scale of the challenge will not become clear until pupils return to school.

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

Standard, quality & provision of Collective Worship

- a) Compliance:
- As for RE, the survey responses showed that the schools responding were offering some collective worship. As only 10 schools responded SACRE surmises that many other schools are not providing much in the way of collective worship for their pupils.
- b) Quality:
- No information has been obtained on the quality of collective worship. Ofsted reports have not mentioned it where these took place, and as visiting schools has not been possible no information is available.
- 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 has been good this year, with very few absences, either with or without apologies.
 - Chair and Vice chair have remained the same, as has the LA officer and a new clerk has been appointed.
 - The intention was to hold two of the meetings this year in places of worship. The synagogue in Maidenhead hosted the first meeting of the year, but the one in the Gurdwara was cancelled due to Covid-19.
 - It had been decided in the previous year to begin the meetings with a reflection and this continued in the autumn, but not at the summer term online meeting.
- b) Membership and training:
- More members have been recruited, and therefore apart from in Group D there are fewer vacancies. However, the final meeting of the year had several councillors in

attendance as observers, so it is hoped that at least two of them will be appointed by the LA.

- The second meeting of the year was cancelled as the Covid-19 pandemic was beginning to take hold, and as yet no one was ready with an online platform. By the summer meeting this was rectified, and the meeting took place online and was broadcast. This drew some observers and a teacher has expressed an interest in joining SACRE as a result.
- After a presentation from a member of the local humanist group, Anthony Lewis was co-opted onto SACRE.

c) Pan-Berkshire SACRE hub

- Windsor and Maidenhead has continued to work with the other Berkshire SACRES (Reading, West Berkshire, Wokingham, Slough, and Bracknell) as part of the hub. The major project has been the Westhill funded Real People, Real Faith film project. Four of the six planned filming sessions took place in places of worship before lockdown. Teachers interviewed members of the communities using questions from the syllabus. The film maker has made the first cuts available so that three teachers are able to start work producing the first round of notes. TrueTube has been approached as a host and hopefully the films will be available early in the new academic year.

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) Community Cohesion:

- All the interfaith group conversations organised by the Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum have been advertised to teachers through the SACRE newsletter, but clearly there have been fewer initiatives for people to participate in.
- SACRE ensured that the voices of SACRE members were heard in the final meeting of the year to learn about how schools and faith communities had coped with the pandemic.

Summary

It has been hard to achieve much this year outside of the Pan-Berkshire SACRE hub project, which has involved many teachers and venues in the local authority area. This project will enable teachers and pupils to engage with the diversity and lived reality of local religious communities.

It is encouraging that many of the vacancies have been filled and moving the meeting online may mean that more people are able to attend, as travel problems are eased.

It will be interesting to see how quickly SACRE can find out more about what is happening in schools when they are fully open, and how well teachers engage with online training as a more regular occurrence. I am optimistic that a plan can be put together to ensure that schools help pupils to catch up and that the progress made in RE recently is not lost.

Anne Andrews (Adviser to SACRE)

SACRE membership and Attendance 2019 - 20

Name	Group	19-11-19	17-03-20 Meeting Canceled	11-07-20
Vacancy	Baptist (A)			
Clare Theobalds	Free Church (A)	X		P
Margaret Dudley	Methodist (A)	P		P
Barbara Meaney	Roman Catholic (A)	P		P
Ila Gangotra	Hindu (A)	P		P
Saghir Ahmed	Islam (A)	P		X
Hilary Harris	Judaism (A)	P		P
Ravinder Singh	Sikh (A)	P		P
Chris Sayers	Buddhist (A)	P		P
Michael Gammage (Chair)	Baha'i (A)	P		P
Anthony Lewis	Humanist (Co-opted)	P		P
Rev Darcey Chesterfield-Terry	Church of England (B)	P		P
Rev Sally Lunch	Church of England (B)	A		P
Karen Butler (Vice-Chair)	Church of England (B)	P		P
Deborah Firth	Primary (C)	P		P
Vacancy	Primary (C)			
Vacancy	Secondary (C)			
Vacancy	Secondary (C)			
Louise Ceska	HT Secondary Academy (C)	P		P
Richard Rhodes	HT primary (C)	P		P
Cllr Donna Stimson	RBWM (D)	P		P
?	RBWM (D)			
?	RBWM (D)			
Clive Haines	Local Authority Officer	A		P
Mark Beeley	Clerk	P		P
Anne Andrews	Professional Advisor	P		P

Key:

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