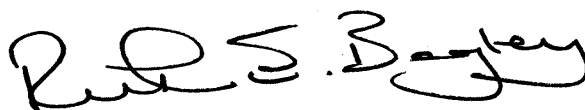


Date of issue: 16th February 2016

MEETING	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
DATE AND TIME:	WEDNESDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 2016 AT 4.30 PM
VENUE:	VENUS SUITE 2, ST MARTINS PLACE, 51 BATH ROAD, SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE, SL1 3UF
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	NEIL FRASER 01753 875015

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



RUTH BAGLEY
Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART I

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
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3.	SACRE Membership Update - Democratic Services	7 - 8

<u>AGENDA</u> <u>ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
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7.	Report, Comments & Feedback from Joint SACRE Meetings - Jo Fageant	9 - 18
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Press and Public

You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before the Committee considers any items in the Part II agenda. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.

The Council allows the filming, recording and photographing at its meetings that are open to the public. Anyone proposing to film, record or take photographs of a meeting is requested to advise the Democratic Services Officer before the start of the meeting. Filming or recording must be overt and persons filming should not move around the meeting room whilst filming nor should they obstruct proceedings or the public from viewing the meeting. The use of flash photography, additional lighting or any non hand held devices, including tripods, will not be allowed unless this has been discussed with the Democratic Services Officer.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Monday, 12th October, 2015.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Zubayr Abbas Bowkan, Waqar Bhatti, Sue Elbrow, Ashpreet Singh Nainu, Hardip Singh Sohal

Committee 2 – Church of England

Rev Andrew Allen, Christine Isles, Robert Simpson

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Lynda Bussley, Linda Lewis

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillor Brooker

Apologies for Absence -

Julie Siddiqi, Andrea Sparrow, Councillors Arvind Dhaliwal, Rana, and Zarait

Other -

Jo Fageant – Professional Advisor, and Robin Crofts – Director of Education

PART 1

17. Election of Chair

Apologies had been received from the Chair, Julie Siddiqi. As the Vice-Chair was not present at the commencement of the meeting, Councillor Brooker was elected as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

(Councillor Brooker in the Chair)

18. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 10th June 2015

In respect of Minute 16, it was confirmed that the venue that had been offered for the next meeting had been Montem Primary Academy, not St. Mary's School.

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2015 be approved as a correct record, subject to the correction of minute 16.

19. Matters Arising

In respect of Minute 6, it was noted that Andrea Sparrow had agreed to contact Open The Book with a view to understanding their availability to visit Slough Schools. As Ms Sparrow was not present, it was agreed that the clerk, and Christine Isles, would contact Ms Sparrow to determine what progress she had made.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 12.10.15

In respect of Minute 12, SACRE Finance, a further update was provided by Robin Crofts, Director of Education.

Members were informed that due to Cambridge Education's internal processes, it had proven difficult to carry over the sum of £1,300.00 into the new financial year; however, the money remained with Cambridge Education and was available to be used for SACRE purposes.

However, as the Cambridge Education contract was due to end in September 2016, it was important to relocate this sum from Cambridge Education before then, ideally before the end of the current 2015-16 Financial Year. Options for which party was best placed to hold this ring-fenced money were still being examined.

Members raised the prospect of the Oxford Diocese potentially holding this sum for Slough SACRE. It was confirmed that Mr Simpson would explore this option before feeding back to Mr Crofts and the clerk.

20. SACRE Membership update - Democratic Services

The Clerk introduced a summary of current SACRE Membership, highlighting the remaining vacancies to be filled. It was confirmed that Mr Robert Simpson, Principal Adviser (Secondary and Business Development) Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, had been appointed to Slough SACRE as part of Committee 2 – the Church of England.

Sue Elbrow confirmed that potential interest had been received in respect of the Judaism vacancy. Ms Elbrow agreed she would confirm this with the interested party before providing their contact details to the clerk.

21. Welcome to new SACRE Member - Jo Fageant

Jo Fageant, Professional Advisor, introduced Mr Robert Simpson, the new representative from the Church of England, appointed by Council at its meeting on 21st July 2015.

SACRE welcomed Mr Simpson, who confirmed that he worked for the Oxford Diocese, held a degree in Theology, and had previously worked in a variety of teaching roles including as an R.E. teacher and as a Head Teacher. Mr Simpson went on to confirm that he was a committed Christian, and was looking forward to taking an active role within Slough SACRE moving forward.

22. SACRE Member News - An update from Members regarding activities undertaken since the last SACRE meeting - Julie Siddiqi

Jo Fageant, Professional Advisor, confirmed that she had recently attended a South East England Faith Forum on Religious Education in schools. Mr Zafar Ali of Iqra Primary School spoke at the event, which included a wide ranging discussion including the inherent positives, and challenges, of religious

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 12.10.15

education and faith within schools. It was confirmed that the minutes of the meeting would be circulated to SACRE Members via email, once available.

(Lynda Bussley arrived at 16.42. Ms Bussley in the Chair)

Cllr Brooker confirmed that he had recently visited the newly opened Eden Muslim Girls School, currently located on Whitby Road. The School was currently teaching 100 girls in year 7, and 50 in Year 8, and further students remained on the waiting list for a place at the school. Cllr Brooker was very impressed by his visit, particularly with the school's stated aim of being inclusive to people of all, or no, faith.

Sue Elbrow confirmed that she had recently attended a 'Cup of Tea' meeting alongside Julie Siddiqi. The meeting was designed to allow people of different faiths or backgrounds to come together with the aim of removing barriers, fostering relationships and combating feelings of extremism. The event was hosted by a Muslim family, and was a very enjoyable and productive afternoon.

(Zubayr Abbas Bowkan arrived 16.52)

23. A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools - Jo Fageant

Jo Fageant, Professional Advisor, updated SACRE on the recent launch of a briefing paper on "A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools", part of the Westminster Faith Debates in the House of Lords. The paper focussed on three issues:

1. Collective Worship
2. Religious Education
3. Faith Schools

Ms Fageant advised that the paper contained some controversial suggestions for changes, including the implementation of a National Syllabus for RE together with a National SACRE, and a rethink on compulsory RE within schools. Some of these changes would require amendments to current legislation, and could have an impact on the remit of local SACREs.

The NASACRE paper on the briefing paper had raised questions regarding the proposals, and had asked whether local SACREs would like to respond to these questions, in order to present a collective response by the end of 2015.

It was agreed that SACRE would convene a Sub-Committee to discuss the proposals and formulate a draft response. The draft response would then be forwarded to all members of SACRE for further comment, before the final response was sent.

The Sub-Committee was confirmed as:

Jo Fageant

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Rob Simpson
Sue Elbrow
Lynda Bussley
Cllr Preston Brooker

The date of the Sub-Committee meeting was to be arranged between the attendees, outside of the SACRE meeting.

24. Report, Comments & Feedback from Joint SACRE conference on 15th June - Jo Fageant

Jo Fageant, Professional Advisor, introduced a report providing comments on the Joint SACRE conference held on 15th June. Discussions were held on the ongoing Joint SACRE Places of Worship project, and it was confirmed that the previously applied for funding had been granted by Culham St. Gabriel's.

The funding had allowed for work that had focussed on the drafting of new shared booking and evaluation forms, together with student booklets that could be tailored to each individual visit. Moving forward, the potential for an interactive 'app' that could be installed on phones and tablets was being reviewed. However, as the initial funding of £2,000.00 had been used, any further work would require additional contributions from the SACREs involved.

The list of Places of Worship was still being compiled, and it was requested that SACRE members email Jo Fageant with the contact details of any suitable venues that could be included on the list.

Further Joint SACRE meetings were planned to be held three times per year, though as Julie Siddiqi was often busy, it was likely that a deputy would need to be nominated to attend in her place.

- Resolved -**
- (a) That details of the financial contribution required of Slough SACRE for the Joint SACRE projects be brought to the next meeting for review.
 - (b) That the Vice-Chair, Lynda Bussley, be nominated to deputise for Julie Siddiqi at the Joint SACRE meetings on behalf of Slough SACRE, should Julie be unable to attend (availability permitting).
 - (c) That, once finalised, the shared booking and evaluation forms be added to all relevant websites, including the Slough SACRE and Oxford Diocesan websites.
 - (d) That SACRE Members email Jo Fageant with the contact details of venues suitable for inclusion on the Places of Worship list.

25. SACRE Action Plan - Jo Fageant

Members were updated on which actions had been completed from the Action Plan, and what actions remained.

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Of the completed actions, it was confirmed that savings had been made on the 'Subsidised places for 10 teachers to attend the Joint SACRE Conference' as less than 10 teachers attended. In addition, the money allocated to the 'Drafting of induction materials for new SACRE members' was available, as inductions materials had instead been found on the NASACRE website. There remained money available to buy additional RE Resources, as not all of the previously requested items had been ordered before the end of the previous financial year.

It was agreed that Robin Crofts would circulate an update on the SACRE Finances to all members via email.

The action to catalogue the RE Resources at St Mary's School was discussed. It was confirmed that all old or unusable resources had been removed, and that the final act was to photograph and assign a catalogue number to the resources remaining. It was agreed that Waqar Bhatti would meet with Linda Lewis to review whether he could complete this action. If it was determined that he could not, Jo Fageant would obtain quotes and arrange for the cataloguing to be done externally.

26. Updates to SACRE Website - Democratic Services

The clerk updated members on the additions that had been made to the SACRE website since the last meeting.

It was confirmed that the additions made had included:

- Training Documents for new SACRE Members
- Links to NASACRE
- Details of SACRE Members
- SACRE Newsletters
- SACRE Annual Reports

Suggestions for further additions were sought, with members recommending:

- Berkshire RE Syllabus
- List of scheduled RE teacher meetings
- Places of Worship documents once finalised (booking, evaluation forms etc.)

It was confirmed that new documents such as the SACRE Newsletters, Annual Reports etc would continue to be added on an ongoing basis.

27. The Common Inspection Framework - Robin Crofts

Robin Crofts, Director of Education, updated members on the new Common Inspection Framework for schools, which was operable from September 2015.

Members were advised that the new Framework was designed to provide a greater consistency in the way in which inspections of voluntary or foundation

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 12.10.15

schools 'with a religious character' were carried out. Academies that were designated as having a religious character were inspected in an equivalent way via provisions set out in the academy's funding agreement. Academies without a defined religious character had a requirement to provide Collective Worship of a 'broadly Christian nature'.

It was confirmed that the changes outlined in the report were minimal, and the report was noted.

28. Member's Attendance Record

The Member's Attendance Record was noted.

29. Date of Next Meeting - TBC

The clerk proposed several potential dates for the next meeting of SACRE. The dates were discussed, and deemed unsuitable.

It was agreed that the clerk would forward a selection of new dates for members to review, before confirming the agreed date via email.

30. Annual SACRE Report 2014-15

Jo Fageant, Professional Advisor, introduced the draft SACRE annual report for 2014-15. Following feedback to the previous year's report, the draft was designed in the same format, with the aim of being brief and succinct.

Suggestions for further items to be included were sought.

Members suggested including the GCSE and A Level results for Slough RE examinations. It was confirmed that the validated exam results would be available from December 2015. It was agreed that Robin Crofts would draft a report on the results, to be presented at the next SACRE meeting.

To enable an updated draft of the Annual Report to be presented at that next meeting, it was agreed that Robin Crofts would also provide the validated details to Jo Fageant in the interim.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.35 pm and closed at 6.35 pm)

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**Committee 1 - Christian Denomination and other Faiths (12)**

The Free Churches (1)	Sue Elbrow (until 2017)
Black Free Churches (1)	Vacancy
The Roman Catholic Church (1)	Vacancy
Hinduism (1)	Vacancy
Islam (4)	Julie Siddiqi (until 2017) Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan (until 2017) Waqar Bhatti (until 2017) Vacancy
Judaism (1)	Vacancy
Sikhism (2)	Hardip Singh Sohal (until 2017) Ashpreet Singh Nainu (until 2017)
Baha'is (1)	Vacancy

Committee 2 – The Church of England

The Church of England (4)	The Rev Andrew Allen (until 2017) Christine Isles (until 2017) Andrea Sparrow (until 2017) Robert Simpson (until 2018)
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Committee 3 - Associations representing Teachers (6)

National Union of Teachers (1)	Lynda Bussley (until 2017)
VOICE (Formerly Professional Association of Teachers) (1)	Linda Lewis (until 2017)
National Association of Head Teachers (1)	Vacancy
Secondary Heads Association (1)	Vacancy
National Association of School Masters/Union of Women Teachers (1)	Vacancy
Association of Teachers and Lecturers (1)	Vacancy

Committee 4 – Representatives of Local Authority (5)**Professional Advisor**

Councillors Brooker, Dhaliwal,
Rana, Zarait
(one Conservative vacancy)
Jo Fageant

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Meeting of Berkshire SACRE chairs/ vice chairs

4 – 5.30 15th December 2015

Civic offices, Wokingham Borough Council

Present:

David Fawcett (Bracknell SACRE chair)

Karen Butler (Windsor and Maidenhead SACRE vice-chair)

Stephen Vegh (Wokingham SACRE chair)

Jo Fageant (RE advisor to Slough and West Berks SACREs)

Jan Lever (RE advisor to Reading and Wokingham SACREs)

Anne Andrews (RE advisor to Bracknell and Windsor and Maidenhead SACREs)

Emily Waddilove (Wokingham LA school improvement team - LA link officer for the Wokingham SACRE, and chair of this meeting)

Apologies:

Julie Siddiqi (Slough SACRE chair)

Zvi Solomons (Reading SACRE chair)

Mary Harwood (West Berks SACRE chair)

1. Introductions and apologies

2. Partnership working of the 6 Berkshire SACREs: next steps

Proposals:

- Appointment of a co-ordinator for the Berkshire SACREs Hub/ syllabus review lead

- Schedule regular Hub meetings
- Devise a system of communication to share minutes/ projects/ opportunities and good practice across the 6 SACREs
- Draft and cost a Hub work plan to be agreed by all 6 SACREs
- Draft and cost a plan for the agreed syllabus review process/timescale etc
- Lead on the syllabus review

- Continuation of the 'Crossing the Bridges' project

(Strengthening links between places of worship and schools, and ensuring that visits and visitors are of good educational value)

- Appointment of a project co-ordinator

- Organise the project activities (annual training for visit hosts; further work on the directory, to be done by teachers)
- Deliver annual training for faith hosts
- Develop resources to support visits
- Keep the SACREs updated on the project

Emily explained the background to this meeting:

The Crossing the Bridges project has made an excellent start but further work is needed to maximise its impact by involving more faith hosts and more schools, and completing the directory to assist teachers in planning visits to places of worship. The project received funding from Culham St Gabriel's but

this funding has now been spent. The project has been carried out so far on a pan-Berkshire basis. Some Hub meetings have been held recently but these have been arranged on an ad hoc basis without any funding for the time of the meeting organisers.

There has been discussion amongst Wokingham SACRE members that it would be good for Hub meetings to continue on a regular basis, with communication back to the SACREs after meetings. It is felt that the Hub has great potential. Also, Wokingham SACRE members are really keen to develop the SACRE's support for schools, and feels that the Crossing the Bridges project is a perfect way of doing that. The project is meeting a real need. At the last Wokingham SACRE meeting Jan outlined proposals for appointing a Hub co-ordinator and for continuing the Crossing the Bridges project. Wokingham SACRE members were in favour of these proposals. Through the RE advisors, all 6 SACREs have some knowledge of the proposals and have agreed in principle, although some are concerned about the funding required.

Jan, Jo and Anne have been communicating further about how the proposals could be realised. The purpose of this meeting is for the advisors to explain their thoughts about the proposals, and for the chairs to have an opportunity to discuss the proposals and agree on the way forward. The Wokingham SACRE is keen for the work to begin next term, but it could be that further time for discussion is needed, especially with regard to funding, and a summer term start may be needed.

Jan Lever then provided further information about the proposals:

Considerations:

- Funding: The work of the Hub, and the Crossing the Bridges project, require funding. For the proposals to go ahead, each of the 6 SACREs will need to commit to the work and confirm that they can contribute the necessary funding. Plans could be amended to reduce costs if necessary. If any SACRE does not want to be involved, this would of course increase the costs for the other SACREs, so ideally all 6 SACREs would be involved.

- Commitment: Each SACRE will need to decide whether it wants to be involved in these partnership working plans. For the Hub to function, chairs need to confirm that they would attend Hub meetings or that another member of their SACRE would attend to represent their SACRE.

- Syllabus review: Jan explained that, as part of the discussions about these proposals, it would make sense to bear in mind that the syllabus review is due for 2017. It would make sense for the Hub co-ordinator to also be the person who leads on the syllabus review. At present there is an assumption that all 6 SACREs will be involved in a joint syllabus review but there has not been any formal agreement of this. All present agreed that the SACREs would be keen to work together again on the syllabus review.

- Co-ordinator roles: To be considered – Who should take on these roles? One person or two people? Should the roles be undertaken by someone internal or external to the SACREs?

It would be possible to proceed with the Hub co-ordinator role and the syllabus review, without all 6 SACREs committing to the Crossing the Bridges project. However, in practical terms it makes sense for this project, that involves places of worship and members of faith communities, to be done on a pan-Berkshire basis. All of the SACREs are likely to want to benefit from the outcomes of the project and it would be difficult to prevent any SACREs who weren't involved from benefitting from the materials and the approaches developed.

Jo reported that both the SACREs that she works with (Slough and West Berkshire) are in favour of continuing the Crossing the Bridges project, and she knows that Slough will have the funding to contribute to this. Wokingham SACRE has discussed the plans for the Hub and the Crossing the Bridges project and is in favour of proceeding with both initiatives. Anne feels that her two SACREs (Bracknell and RBWM) are probably less well informed about the plans, but Bracknell SACRE is supportive of them. Changes in personnel have made discussion of the plans by RBWM SACRE more difficult.

The appointment of the co-ordinators was discussed further:

There are two options – either we could appoint an external person to do one or both of the co-ordinator roles (such as a teacher on secondment perhaps), or appoint one or two of the three advisors to do the roles. An external person may bring in interesting new ideas, but may not have the advantage of prior knowledge of the Berkshire SACREs, or working across several LAs, and would need to take some time to learn about the work that has already been done on the Crossing the Bridges project, which is already well under way.

The three advisors explained their position in terms of taking on the role of co-ordinating the Hub and leading the syllabus review:

Jan would be happy to take on the role. However, she is about to move to Devon, so if we were to appoint her, she would lead and manage the work, but much of it would actually be done by members of her team who live in or near Berkshire. (Jan has a colleague who lives in Reading; one who lives in Abingdon; one who lives near Oxford, plus two who live in Dorset.) Jan has experience of leading syllabus reviews, including reviews that involve more than one SACRE, and is currently leading on a review of the Bournemouth and Poole syllabus. She worked closely with Jo on the last review of the Berkshire syllabus.

Jo does not want to take on either of the roles, although she is happy to support whoever does take on the role, as a normal part of her role as RE advisor to the two SACREs. There is some uncertainty about whether her roles on the two SACREs will continue longer term, as both are to be reviewed in the next year or so.

The diocese is willing to give Anne the time to do the role and she would be willing to take it on. However, she has no prior experience of doing a syllabus review. There would be some support available from her colleagues, but Jo pointed out that none of the diocese staff have recent experience of doing a review, and would have little time to support Anne. Anne would need to be briefed by Jo and Jan. Anne lives locally in Bracknell.

There was discussion about whether the two co-ordinator roles should be advertised. Going through a recruitment process would take time and would cost. It was agreed that, if the roles are taken on by Anne or Jan, the work could be seen as an extension of their normal work for the SACREs. The Crossing the Bridges work is already being done, and would be continued by the co-ordinator who is appointed; leading the syllabus review can be seen as a normal part of the role of RE advisor to the SACREs.

The advisors explained that Jan has done almost all the work on the Crossing the Bridges project so far. Jan has drawn on the varied expertise of the members of her team.

It was suggested that perhaps it would make sense for the diocese to lead on the syllabus review, and Jan to lead on the Crossing the Bridges project. However, Jo pointed out that there is no reason why it makes sense for the diocese to lead on the syllabus review, as the syllabus doesn't have to be used by church schools. Jo feels that Jan has much experience of working with all kinds of schools, and has experience of leading syllabus reviews and, in her view, would be the most appropriate person to lead on the syllabus review.

It was suggested that perhaps two or three of the SACRE chairs should interview Anne and Jan and then make a decision about who would be best placed to do the work. But it was then agreed that this would slow up the process and would not provide any additional information. It was felt to be better to come to a decision at this meeting if possible, that can then be shared and discussed with SACRE members.

Emily suggested that if Jan was to lead on the syllabus review, Anne could perhaps be involved in leading on some parts of the work. Jo pointed out that all three advisors would be involved as part of their normal SACRE roles. Jan said that if people would like her to lead on the work, she would draw up a work plan which she would share with Anne who could identify which pieces of the work she wanted to be responsible for, before Jan allocates work to her team members. Anne said that she would be very happy with this arrangement, and would in fact feel quite relieved not be leading on the syllabus review.

It was agreed that all felt the best option would be for Jan's company to take on the work of co-ordinating the Hub, leading on the syllabus review, and continuing the Crossing the Bridges project. Jan will draw up a plan for all of this work by the 8th January, including an indication of costs required for the syllabus review. The plan can then be shared by each chair with SACRE

members, and approval sought for the plan and for Jan's company to carry out the work. The plan will include outcomes of the work as these will be helpful to chairs when requesting additional funding. Windsor and Maidenhead have a SACRE meeting in January when discussion of the plan can take place; the Slough SACRE has a sub-committee meeting in January when the plan can be discussed and agreed; the Wokingham SACRE has already discussed and agreed the work so members can be sent the plan via email. Bracknell and Reading SACREs are not due to meet until early March but Jan, Anne and the chairs will consider how the plan could be shared and discussed before then if possible.

Funding:

The level of funding provided to the SACRE differs in each LA. However, Emily pointed out that the syllabus review is statutory and therefore LAs have an obligation to provide additional funding for this work. Much, if not all, of the funding for the Hub co-ordination role could come from monies allocated for the syllabus review, as this will be the main focus of the Hub's work for the next two financial years. Emily has had discussions with Jan about the amount of funding usually required for a syllabus review, and has checked on the amount of funding provided by Wokingham LA for previous reviews. If each SACRE contributed around £4,000, this would be sufficient to cover all the costs. Emily has requested from Wokingham LA £1,000 during the 2016-17 financial year when the review will begin, and £3,000 during the 2017-18 financial year when most of the work will be done.

In terms of the funding for the Crossing the Bridges project, Wokingham SACRE has some funds remaining each year once the costs of core activities and RE network meetings have been covered. This is usually used for teacher training but can be used to fund the Crossing the Bridges project next year.

In terms of organising the financing of the work, one LA could cover the costs and then invoice the other LAs for their share. (During the previous syllabus reviews a similar system has operated whereby the diocese paid for the work and invoiced the LAs for their share.) Emily thought that Wokingham could probably be the LA who pays for the work and the invoices other LAs.

3. AOB

Synchronising the dates of SACRE meetings:

It was agreed that for the purposes of the Hub, and the syllabus review, it would be very helpful to ensure that all the SACREs hold their meetings within a couple of weeks of each other. It was agreed that, from now on, meetings will be arranged for the second or third week after each half term break.

Dates of next term's SACRE meetings are as follows:

Wokingham: 8th February

RBWM: 13th January; 14th March

Bracknell: 3rd March

Slough: 24th February

Reading: 1st March

West Berks: 8th February

Jo reported that sub-committees of the Slough SACRE are formed and meet between SACRE meetings as necessary. Others felt it may be useful to implement this model.

Actions:

- Emily to send to all: the funding proposal; the outline of the co-ordinator roles; and the ppt Jan produced for sharing information about the proposed work with the Wokingham SACRE.
- Jo Fageant to send Anne Coffey (Wokingham SACRE clerk) the email addresses of all the clerks for the Berkshire SACREs.
- Jan to draw up a plan for the syllabus review, Hub co-ordination, and Crossing the Bridges project and share it with chairs by the 8th January. The plans will start from the beginning of the summer term 2016.
- All chairs to confirm as soon as possible, and by early March at the latest, that their SACRE:
 - would like to be involved in the Hub, the syllabus review and the Crossing the Bridges project
 - approves the plans and would like Jan to go ahead with the work in the new financial year
 - is able to contribute the funds indicated in the proposal or, if not, provide information about the level of funding that they could contribute.

Partnership working of the 6 Berkshire SACREs: proposed next steps

- Appointment of a co-ordinator for the Berkshire SACREs Hub/ syllabus review lead
 - Schedule regular Hub meetings from spring term 2016
 - Devise a system of communication to share minutes/ projects/ opportunities and good practice across the 6 SACREs
 - Draft and cost a Hub work plan to be agreed by all 6 SACREs
 - Draft and cost a plan for the agreed syllabus review process/timescale etc
 - Lead on the syllabus review
- Continuation of the 'Crossing the Bridges' project
(Strengthening links between places of worship and schools, and ensuring that visits and visitors are of good educational value)
- Appointment of a project co-ordinator
 - Organise the project activities (annual training for visit hosts; further work on the Directory to be done by teachers)
 - Deliver annual training for faith hosts
 - Develop resources to support visits
 - Keep the SACREs updated on the project

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Funding for proposed Berkshire SACRE activities

Hub co-ordinator

2-3 days per term @ £500 a day:

For remainder of 2015-16 financial year:

2 days during spring term 2016 = £1,000 = **£167 per SACRE**

OR

3 days during spring term 2016 = £1,500 = **£250 per SACRE**

2016-17:

3 days a term = £1500 = £4,500 a year = **£750 per SACRE**

OR

2 days a term = £3,000 a year = **£500 per SACRE**

Crossing the Bridges project

Project co-ordinator:

2015-16: 3 days during spring term @ £500 a day = £1,500 = **£250 per SACRE**

2016-17: 6 days during school year @ £500 a day = **£500 per SACRE**

Directory:

2015-16: Teacher time of 2 days during spring term @ £200 a day = £400 = **£67 per SACRE**

2016-17: Teacher time of 6 days @ £200 a day = £1200 = **£200 per SACRE**

Annual training for hosts:

2015-16: Adviser time 6 half days to prep and deliver 2 x half day sessions = £1500 = **£250 per SACRE**

2016-17: Adviser time 6 half days to plan and deliver 4 x half days training = £1500 = **£250 per SACRE**

Total required for 2015-16 per SACRE = £734 (for 2 days of Hub co-ordinator time)
or £817 (for 3 days of Hub co-ordinator time)

Total required for 2016-17 per SACRE = £1,450 (for 2 days per term of Hub co-ordinator time) **or £1,700** (for 3 days per term of Hub co-ordinator time)

NB Funding for the syllabus review is not included here. For previous reviews, each SACRE has contributed approx £4,000 over two financial years. The advisors feel that this would be a sufficient amount to cover the costs of the forthcoming review. The Hub co-ordinator role could be partly or wholly funded from syllabus review budgets?

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30th November 2015

Department: Chief Executive's
Contact Name: Neil Fraser
Contact No: 01753 875015
Fax: 01753 875171
Email: Neil.fraser@slough.gov.uk

To NASACRE, by email.

For the attention of the NASACRE Executive

Re. A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools

Further to the NASACRE briefing paper titled 'A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools' by Clarke/Woodhead, published in June 2015, Slough SACRE recently formed a Sub-Committee to discuss the paper and formulate a response, as requested. Please find Slough SACRE's response, below. Please note, the Sub-Committee has not addressed each question as set out in the paper, but expressed their thoughts about the issues raised.

General Comment

The Sub-Committee is concerned about the degree of variation across SACREs and local authorities which seems to make the law a bit of a nonsense.

Collective worship:

The Sub-Committee generally want something more robust to support, challenge and monitor the quality of collective worship than what is in place now. The present requirements are not enforceable so any new system needs to be more effective and this involves taking collective worship seriously. The Sub-Committee cannot see how the proposal will necessarily improve the situation on the ground. Quality rather than quantity should be the focus so maybe 'worship' shouldn't be required on a daily basis – instead, perhaps once or twice a week? There should, perhaps be a focus on collective worship within initial teacher training programmes if it is deemed to be important.

Religious Education:

Does it matter if a syllabus doesn't reflect the local situation? – surely schools should be preparing students for life beyond their local area, to be responsible, informed citizens of the world. The Sub-Committee likes the idea of a local SACRE to interpret a national syllabus in the light of the local context. The Sub-Committee would like to see local SACREs given teeth to monitor and support the teaching and quality of RE. (The Sub-Committee also think that it is a nonsense to have a national curriculum that is not required in all state funded schools.)

In relation to the appointment of people to a national SACRE – this is just the same problem as is experienced in every local area. It has to be sorted out locally so the same compromise would have to be sorted out. If it can be done locally why not nationally?

On the matter of a veto – careful consideration should be given to the choice of members. The threat of a veto locally prevents SACREs ever getting as far as failing to publish a

syllabus so it is likely that the same would prevail because no one would really want to hand on the responsibility for a national syllabus to the Secretary of State.

The Sub-Committee agree that the right of withdrawal should be removed but it does mean that teachers, visiting speakers and hosts of visits to places of worship must all have a good understanding of boundaries and this has training implications. There should also be clear information given to parents about the nature of RE and what might be involved, for example, on a visit.

In this day and age RE should be understood to be an important subject and treated as such with appropriate funding and structures which ensure the highest of standings.

On a note not relevant to SACREs:

The Sub-Committee believe faith schools should retain their own inspection systems to ensure that each one conforms to norms agreed beyond individual schools.

Yours sincerely

Neil Fraser

Neil Fraser

Clerk to Slough SACRE, on behalf of Julie Siddiqi, Chair

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



Autumn 2014

The latest news from SACRE

Slough SACRE has been very busy in support of RE in local schools. It has developed a significant loan collection of resources which are housed at St Mary's CE Primary School. There are items retained following the closure of the Slough RS Resources Centre and many new artefacts and books. Work on cataloguing these resources is on-going. It will be published on the SACRE website (<http://www.slough.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/sacre-documents.aspx>) as soon as it becomes available.

The SACRE also continues to provide a meeting each term for those who teach RE in primary schools. Last term's was held at the mosque in Stoke Poges Lane and was supported by people there who host school visits to the mosque. Apart from the wonderful refreshments they provided, we were able very helpfully to share perspectives on schools visiting places of worship. Teachers talked about the challenges and joys for them and hosts also expressed what worked and what was rather more problematic for them. In particular, the meeting considered some materials developed jointly by Slough and five other nearby SACREs to support school visits to places of worship. These were positively received by everyone present. For this reason, we plan another meeting in a place of worship to try out the materials in a practical way.

Members of the SACRE have also attended the AGM of the National Association of SACREs. There they heard Charles Clarke speak about the report about religious education and collective worship in schools which was published soon afterwards. In order to support Slough teachers members have also kept up to date with other national initiatives which might have an impact on the local context.

This newsletter highlights some opportunities open to teachers and news of what is happening in the RE community at large. The SACRE is, however, very keen to hear from schools about the support they would like and also to hear of successes that can be shared with other schools as examples of good practice.

Get in touch with Jo Fageant, Slough's RE consultant at jefconsultancy@hotmail.co.uk or on 07723 350617 if you have requests or ideas to share.

Spring Term meeting for Primary RE teachers

This term's meeting will take place at **St Mary's Church, Church Street, Slough, SL1 1PJ from 4.00-5.30pm on Tuesday 22 March.**



Following on from last term's meeting we will be using the materials which were shared and are now available on the Slough SACRE website. Rev. Andrew Allan has kindly offered to make available some of the church's artefacts to enrich our visit and help us explore how these materials can help teachers plan for engaging and focused visits to places of worship. We will start the meeting with an overview of the materials and their purpose for those who were unable to attend last term's meeting at the mosque. The rest of the session will be an active exploration of how the pupils' workbook can be used for different age groups. Before the end of the session there will be a chance for everyone to share the outcomes of their work in order to demonstrate the flexibility of this resource.

To get the most out of this opportunity it will be valuable to bring something with which you can take digital photographs. This will enable you to complete your own version of the workbook and also capture a bank of pictures you can use in other contexts.

So what is this resource ?

It is not always easy to know how to get the best out of a visit to a place of worship or how to link it with the enquiry approach in the RE syllabus. The ideal is that teachers will have visited the place

prior to taking pupils. However, this is not always possible and we rely on the recommendations and risk assessments of others. Having made what could be a significant investment (finance and time) in such an event we want to achieve as much as possible from it. Often this results in providing a rather vague and all-embracing agenda for visit hosts to address. All visits should be part of an overall unit plan in RE. All concerned should understand how the visit will contribute to the unit of work. It might also provide time and opportunity for pupils to explore other questions that interest them BUT each visit should have a clear, planned learning intention. Visit hosts say over and over again how much easier it is to respond to a specific agenda than something which is too broad.

The resource, which has been called ***Crossing the Bridges*** is designed to help both teachers and visit hosts achieve the best possible outcomes from school visits.



There is an **information form** which enables a place of worship to describe the facilities and features it can offer. These forms can be shared with teachers at meetings and also on the Slough SACRE website—even if the places available to visit are outside of the local area.

There is a **booking form** which enables teachers to let host communities know exactly who will be visiting and the intended learning outcomes of the visit.

Hosts, and visiting speakers in schools, often report that they have received little or no feedback about the success of whatever event they were involved with. Schools are good at saying 'thanks' but do not always help speakers and hosts, through specific feedback, to improve the service they offer. Many would welcome this, especially if it is set against clear planned outcomes which were shared before the visit took place. For this reason there are two

versions of a **feedback form** so information can be exchanged in both directions. It is hoped that these forms will serve as the basis of a shared endeavour to develop the best practice for successful visits.

For the visits themselves, there is a **workbook** for pupils to use. This is a blank template and can be developed in a variety of ways. It can be pre-populated with as much/many or as little/few information/pictures as the teacher wants depending on the ages and abilities of the pupils. The workbook requires a focus for a visit. This could be determined by the teacher or might arise as a key questions from pupils themselves. It also requires pupils to reflect on what they have learned from the visit.

To help illustrate how these workbooks might be used there are five **exemplar versions** completed as though by pupils of different age groups. They illustrate possible KS2 responses in the main. However, secondary RE teachers might be able to use them in ways which would suit KS3 pupils.

The key to the workbook is its **versatility and flexibility**. It can be used in any place of worship to explore any concept or question with any age group up to KS3.

We hope teachers and people in places of worship will start to try out these materials and be prepared to share their reflections about them and also some samples of pupils' work which arise from them.

New GCSE specifications for RS

As a secondary teacher of RS have you decided on the examination board you will be using and the course your students will follow? The SACRE thought it might be helpful to offer a meeting for all secondary RS teachers at which ideas and decisions can be shared. This would ensure schools/academies know where others are teaching the same course and can share expertise. It will also provide a time to meet with Jo Fageant, Slough's RE Consultant, to discuss any professional development opportunities you would like the SACRE to make available. Please contact Jo as soon as possible at jefconsultancy@hotmail.co.uk to let her know whether you can/would like to attend a meeting from 4.00-5.15pm on Wednesday 23 March.

GCSE Full Course: Religious Studies 2014/15

Centre	No of Roll	No of Entries	Number of Pupils										
			A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*-C	A*-G
Baylis Court	150	148	6	48	42	26	6	12	4	3	1	122	147
Beechwood	133	29		5	4	6	8	5	1			15	29
Herschel Grammar	121	121	10	44	44	20	2	1				118	121
Langley Academy	174	64	6	14	18	21	5					59	64
Langley Grammar	149	148	51	61	32	3				1		147	148
Slough And Eton C E	152	152	5	14	38	31	32	16	5	8	3	88	149
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar	128	128	38	42	32	11	3	2				123	128
St.Joseph's Catholic High	117	115	5	6	19	24	24	10	9	13	5	54	110
Upton Court Grammar	162	162	32	69	41	18	2					160	162
Westgate	168	144	5	22	33	22	28	19	11	3	1	82	143
Wexham	149	27	5	5	9	3	2	3				22	27
Slough LA		1238	163	330	312	185	112	68	30	28	10	990	1228

GCE A Level: Religious Studies 2014/15

Centre	No of Entries	Number of Pupils									
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E
Baylis Court	16		3	4	4	3	2		3	7	16
Herschel Grammar	1	1							1	1	1
Langley Grammar	7		2	2		2	1		2	4	7
Slough and Eton	4			1	1	2				1	4
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar	26	2	6	14	2	2			8	22	26
Upton Court Grammar	12			3	6	2	1			3	12
Westgate	6			1	3	2				1	6
Wexham	2		1		1				1	1	2
Slough LA	74	3	12	25	17	13	4		15	40	74

GCE AS Level: Religious Studies 2014/15

Centre	No of Entries	Number of Pupils							
		A	B	C	D	E	U	A-B	A-E
Baylis Court	16	4	6	3	2		1	10	15
Langley Grammar	18	2	6	6	3		1	8	17
Slough and Eton	8	1	1	1	4	1		2	8
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar	41	20	7	8	5	1		27	41
Upton Court Grammar	24	7	3	3	6	2	3	10	21
Westgate	15		3	5	6		1	3	14
Wexham	9			1	2	4	2		7
Slough LA	131	34	26	27	28	8	8	60	123

Figures based on NCER EPAS data. Jan 2015

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SACRE **DATE:** 24th February 2016

CONTACT OFFICER: Robin Crofts (Director of Education – Cambridge Education)

(For all Enquiries) (01753) 787645

WARD(S): All

TO NOTE

SACRE FINANCE

1. **Purpose of Report**

Members of SACRE are requested to note the current SACRE Finances.

2. **Supporting Information**

2.1 The spend in this financial year (2015-16) is currently £500 to cover the cost of conferences. Other spend recently incurred may yet to be reported.

In the previous financial year (2014-15) there was spend of £1,963.00 related to:

- Consultancy from Oxford Diocese
- Annual Report
- Newsletter
- Conference attendance
- Resources

2.2 Consideration needs to be given to the £1,300 previously retained by Montem Primary School for resources. Given the ending of the Cambridge Education contract on 30th September 2016 it is important to find an alternative location for the retaining of this money.

2.3 The remaining funding for this financial year (ending on 31st March 2016) is

- £2,100 of core funding.
- Supplementary funding can be allocated from the Dedicated Schools Budget up to £2,600 if required.

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Update on costed action plan for 2015-2016

Funds available:

£5,000 is the SACRE budget

£1,300 is the money from the closure of the SRSC and can be carried forward.

Costs set out below are estimated costs only.

Activity	Cost	
Meetings on 13/4 to plan for 2015-2016 (St Martin's Place and Montem Academy)	£210	✓
3 termly twilight RE subject leaders meetings – mainly primary focused	£660	2✓
1 meeting for secondary RE teachers focused on new GCSE and A level specs These have still not been finalised so the meeting seems more appropriate for the summer term	£220	
2 members to attend NASACRE AGM @£90 each + travel costs	Approx. £270	✓
NASACRE membership	£100	?
3 newsletters (printed)	£1300	
Induction material for new SACRE members – to be prepared and printed by 7 May	£425	✓
Joint SACREs conference (1/6 of the costs) for prep and leading on the evening – JF	£100	✓
Subsidised places for up to 10 teachers to attend the Joint SACREs conference	£350	✓
½ day training session on collective worship + preparation time (delegate costs covered by course charge) Course has been prepared and can run whenever seems appropriate	£425	✓
½ day session (repeat of something already run for others around radicalisation) Zafir Ali has agreed in principle that he could help with this	£600	
Preparation of the Annual SACRE Report	£425	✓
Estimated total	£5085	

Adviser costs according to the agreed contract:

Year 1: £400 per day

Year 2: £425 per day (2015-2016 is Year 2)

Year 3: £450 per day

Docs to send:

Updated Annual SACRE report

4 docs about coordinated work

This paper updated: book twilight meeting

Newsletter majoring on Crossing the Bridges + invite to send in comments about syllabus.

The info Robin sent through about syllabus – check Barbara Easton's emails.

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MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE RECORD 2015/16
SACRE

Member	Representing	10.06.15	12.10.15	24.02.16
Sue Elbrow	The Free Churches	P	P	
Julie Siddiqi	Islam	P	Ap	
Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan	Islam	Ap	P*	
Waqar Bhatti	Islam	P	P	
Hardip Singh Sohal	Sikhism	P	P	
Ashpreet Singh Nainu	Sikhism	P	P	
The Rev Andrew Allen	The Church of England	P	P	
Christine Isles	The Church of England	P	P	
Andrea Sparrow	The Church of England	P	Ap	
Robert Simpson	The Church of England	N/A	P	
Lynda Bussley	National Union of Teachers	P	P*	
Linda Lewis	VOICE	P	P	
Councillor P. Brooker	Local Authority	Ap	P	
Councillor A. Dhaliwal	Local Authority	Ap	Ap	
Councillor R. K. Rana	Local Authority	P	Ap	
Councillor R. Zarait	Local Authority	P	Ap	
Jo Fageant	Professional Advisor	P	P	

P = Present for whole meeting
Ap = Apologies given

P* = Present for part of meeting
Ab = Absent, no apologies given

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