

Annual SACRE Report

2014-2015

What is a SACRE?

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 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 Slough 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 Slough SACRE over the academic year 2014-2015. The minutes of the meetings which give more detail can be found at [http://www.slough.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/standing-advisory-council-for-religious-education-\(sacre\).aspx](http://www.slough.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/standing-advisory-council-for-religious-education-(sacre).aspx)

The make up and terms of reference can be found at the same address.

For more information about the role and business of the SACRE please contact:

The Clerk: Neil Fraser Neil.Fraser@slough.gov.uk

Adviser: Jo Fageant jo.fageant@oxford.anglican.org

The Slough SACRE

In a year which saw the re-election of Julie Siddiqi as Chair and Lynda Bussley as Vice Chair and successful efforts to recruit new members to fill vacancies, the SACRE worked with renewed clarity and energy. The number of vacancies for teacher representatives remained a disappointment and concern. Terms of reference were sharpened to include a fixed three year term of office with the possibility of re-appointment and a rule that membership would be revoked following three consecutive absences without extenuating circumstances. A subcommittee was established to plan the work of the SACRE for the financial year 2015-2016 with the initial plan including the following elements:

- 3 termly twilight meetings for leaders of RE in primary schools
- 1 meeting for secondary teachers of RE
- NASACRE membership
- 2 members of the SACRE to attend the NASACRE AGM
- SACRE newsletter to be published 3 times during the year
- The production of an induction package for new members of the SACRE
- One sixth of the cost of the Joint SACREs Conference (shared with 5 other SACREs)
- Subsidised places for up to 10 teachers to attend the Joint SACREs Conference
- A training session on collective worship
- A training session on combatting radicalization
- Preparation of the Annual SACRE report

This plan was costed and enabled regular review. When NASACRE published its new handbook for SACRE members this was shared with everyone and negated the need to allocate any funding to the production of the planned package for new members. Slough SACRE and teachers were well represented at the Joint SACREs Conference held in Bracknell in June but fewer than ten teachers attended. This also freed funds for the SACRE to use elsewhere.

Resources

Following the closure of Slough Religious Studies Resource Centre many resources were stored at St Mary's CE Primary School and were available for loan to other Slough schools. This collection had become dated. Two SACRE members took responsibility for sorting out what was no longer of use and identifying new items from which the collection would benefit. These additional resources were purchased and the work of photographing and cataloguing the revised collection is ongoing. When completed this information will be available on the SACRE website.

Updating the SACRE section of the Slough Borough Council website was a major initiative during this year. It is now easier to find information about the SACRE and its work:

[http://www.slough.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/standing-advisory-council-for-religious-education-\(sacre\).aspx](http://www.slough.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/standing-advisory-council-for-religious-education-(sacre).aspx) Members were very grateful to the Clerk for his work on this.

Partnership working

The first meeting of the year was held at the Iqra School. Members received a presentation about the school from the Chair of the Trustees, Zafir Ali. It was considered helpful to have an understanding of faith schools within the area. Members also discussed

the relationship between the SACRE and academies and free schools. It was agreed that information about the work and initiatives taken by the SACRE would be shared with these 'schools' in recognition that Slough Borough Council has responsibility for the education of all children within its area. Members also learned of an initiative about engagement with supplementary schools. Discussion highlighted how difficult it is to define these and, therefore, for the local authority to ensure it liaises with all the relevant groups. SACRE members contributed with knowledge of groups which might be included.

The local authority office supporting the SACRE attended a meeting of headteachers to highlight the work of the SACRE and seek their ideas about how it could further help them. They acknowledge the valuable work achieved but had no additional requests for support.

Jo Fageant and Lynda Bussley attended the NASACRE AGM in May. Once again this was a very beneficial experience of meeting with members of other SACREs throughout the country. Charles Clarke made the keynote presentation referring significantly to a paper he had written with Linda Woodhead which would be published soon after the meeting. Lynda and Jo reported back to the SACRE at the final meeting of the year and the paper (A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools <http://faithdebates.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/A-New-Settlement-for-Religion-and-Belief-in-schools.pdf>) was made available electronically for members to consider in preparation for their next meeting.

The Julie Siddiqi met with the Chairs of the SACREs of Bracknell Forest, Reading, West Berkshire, Windsor/Maidenhead and Wokingham to explore the possibilities of co-operative and/or joint projects. The outcome of lively and positive discussions was the decision to bid for funding from the Culham St Gabriel's Trust (CStG) to support the development of training and resources which could enrich visits by schools to places of worship. The plan included meetings for teachers and people who host school visits in their places of worship to explore how these occasions can be most beneficial in supporting the aims of the Slough RE syllabus. It also involved the development of booking, planning and evaluation sheets to improve the communication between schools and faith communities to enrich these experiences. Funding of £2000 was awarded by CStG for the project and the plan, drawing in people and expertise from the six local authorities, began to be implemented during the summer term. The SACRE is grateful to teachers and faith community members from Slough who have taken part in this project so far. It is ongoing with the advisers to the SACREs seeking schools who plan to make visits to places of worship in the autumn of 2015 to volunteer to try out the draft materials. The annual Joint SACREs Conference held in June at Easthampstead Park in Bracknell was used to launch this project, highlighting the value of closer partnership working between schools and faith communities. This was a highly successful evening during which enormous enthusiasm and energy for the project was obvious. Updates will be shared at autumn meetings and on the SACRE pages of the Slough Borough Council website.

Collective Worship

It has not been necessary to renew any determinations during this year. Training to include the legal requirements for collective worship and a range of stimulating ways for its delivery is included in the plan for the 2016.

**Membership of Slough Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
2014-2015**

Representing	Member	Meetings attended
Group A	Christian denominations and other religions	
Free churches	Sue Elbrow	3/3
Black Free Churches	Vacancy	
The Roman Catholic Church	Vacancy	
Baha'i	Vacancy	
Hinduism	Naresh Saraswat	0/3
Islam	Julie Siddiqi	3/3
	Zubayr Abbas Bowkan	2/3
	Waqar Bhatti	2/2
	Vacancy	
Judaism	Vacancy	
Sikhism	Hardip Singh Sohal	3/3
	Ashpreet Singh Nainu	3/3
Group B	The Church of England	
	Rev Andrew Allen	3/3
	Christine Isles	3/3
	Andrea Sparrow	3/3
Group C	Associations representing teachers	
ASCL	Vacancy	
ATL	Vacancy	
NAHT	Vacancy	
NAS/UWT	Vacancy	
NUT	Lynda Bussley	3/3
VOICE	Linda Lewis	3/3
Group D	The Local Authority	
	Cllr Ajaib	1/2
	Cllr Brooker	2/3
	Cllr Cheema	2/2
	Cllr Dhaliwal	0/1
	Cllr Rana	2/3
	Cllr Zarait	1/1
Clerk	Neil Fraser	3/3
Professional Adviser	Jo Fageant	3/3
Officer	Robin Crofts	3/3
Also in attendance	Zafir Ali (Iqra School)	1/1