

Annual SACRE Report 2022-2023

(September 2022-August 2023)

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1. Introduction and Overview

Firstly, I would like to thank teachers for their dedicated work in teaching RE to the students in our local area. I would also like to thank members of Slough SACRE, our SACRE adviser (David Rees), faith representatives and volunteers who helped in the provision of RE in Slough.

We are currently engaged in producing a new syllabus for 2024 with the Pan-Berkshire Hub. The development of teaching video clips which feature local representatives in Berkshire discussing their beliefs has been a huge success, with thousands of views from across the country.

This report goes into further details about these projects and more.

2. Statutory Responsibilities in RE

Our Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) is called the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, which we produce in conjunction with the other five SACREs in Berkshire once every five years. In Slough the Locally Agreed Syllabus is well established in most of our schools, and most academies have also adopted it although SACRE recognises that it needs to find out more about how much it is adhered to.

We are currently engaging in the process of producing a new syllabus for 2024. This gives time for the Pan-Berkshire Hub (consisting of the SACRE Chairs and Professional Consultants) to do the work of preparation thoroughly, and we have already started this process which has included looking at some syllabi from around the country and seeing how recent developments in RE/RW are being incorporated. This has stimulated some lively debate under the stewardship of Anne Andrews who advises some of the other Berkshire SACREs.

In 2022-23 we continued to monitor and support the teaching of RE regularly, although in the aftermath of Covid-19 many meetings were still held virtually. With the rise in fuel prices and environmental concerns also being factored in it is probable that virtual meetings will remain the preferred option for the time being. Professional advisor David Rees led half termly virtual primary network meetings for RE leads (although secondary colleagues were made welcome too) and produced a termly newsletter which was sent to all schools. These newsletters signpost a combination of local and national events, CPD (continuing professional development) opportunities, new resources (particularly free ones) and feedback from events (for example NASACRE AGM and Strictly RE conference).

We did not receive any information about withdrawals from RE this year.

SACRE has been encouraging schools to consider going for an REQM award. The adviser continues to discuss the REQM with schools. Hopefully now the REQM website is refreshed the map will help us identify local schools who have been through the award process.

3. Statutory Responsibilities in Collective Worship

SACRE is aware of the need to monitor collective worship and has been actively trying to engage with local religion and worldview communities to provide appropriate speakers to help schools hear the lived experience and lead reflections. Schools are now in more of a position to welcome visitors inside now post lockdown so hopefully progress on monitoring will be made. SACRE members have been looking to share the responsibility of contacting schools. Slough SACRE is in communication with other SACREs who have produced materials and advice to help schools with collective worship including suggested themes, a code of conduct for visitors and correlation with the curriculum.

It has not been necessary to renew any determinations during this year. (A determination is permission for a school to provide daily collective worship which is not 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.) We have not considered our Determination Process in recent years.

4. Links with Other Bodies

As mentioned above Slough SACRE works closely with our partner SACREs in the Pan-Berkshire Hub. SACRE adviser David Rees and some dedicated SACRE members regularly attend meetings of the Hub. We include membership of NASACRE in our budget each year. The professional advisor helps Slough SACRE stay in touch with providers like RE Online, NATRE and the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and events like Strictly RE. Links to other organisations are actively being sought and SACRE members are encouraged to investigate local and national contacts. We made diversity and equality an agenda item at every meeting in 2021 and will continue to invite speakers in from the LA and external service providers to speak to SACRE.

5. Local Involvement

In previous years we have circulated advice about Ramadan to schools. Recently some SACRE religion and worldview representatives have begun to engage with teachers through RE network meetings. This will hopefully be continued. As Slough has a good range of diversity there are many opportunities which could be developed as well as nurturing other links through the other 5 SACREs in the Pan Berkshire hub. Covid 19 put the 'crossing the bridges' project on hold but recent discussions have shown that this work will hopefully be picked up again and an updated database produced. The 'Crossing the bridges' project was designed to help provide contact details for places of worship in the Pan Berkshire Hub area giving advice on visits and teaching materials to accompany visits to places of worship. These materials are still in use but do need regular checking to ensure contact details are still current. Some SACRE members have agreed to take more of a lead on this.

The Pan Berkshire SACREs also produced some teaching video clips under the title of 'Real People Real Faith', these clips featured representatives of local religion and worldview groups answering some of the enquiry questions present in the latest agreed

syllabus. These are accompanied by teacher notes and have been well received. The clips are housed on the NATRE website where they have already been accessed over 4000 times nationally in a short space of time. The clips are being added to and are giving an excellent opportunity to showcase diversity within traditions within Berkshire.

6. SACRE Arrangements

David Rees continued to serve as our Professional Adviser, and we benefit hugely from the organisational skills of Nadia Williams at Slough Council who continues to serve as SACRE Clerk. Both of them keep in contact with the Chair between SACRE meetings in order to share relevant information.

All four membership groups (Appendix 1) are regularly represented at meetings, and there were no issues with quoracy this year. We made efforts to recruit a wider range of faith representatives, this will continue in the next year.

There was little formal training for SACRE members this year due to work commitments although interest has recently been shown in some of the NASACRE run sessions. These sessions are circulated by the clerk to all SACRE members.

In the financial year beginning April 2023 SACRE was granted £5,000, SACRE is grateful for the support of Slough Council particularly in these days of stretched resources and budgets.

Appendix 2 - Public Examination Results

At the time of writing the exam results were unvalidated and have not yet been made available.

CPD Provided to Schools

Primary RE leader network meetings were organised every half term and led by the SACRE adviser – these were relatively well attended considering the difficult circumstances. We have a core group of people who regularly attend and are making efforts to reach schools where engagement has previously been sporadic. Materials were always circulated afterwards, and the focus always has a key focus on teaching and learning, resources, new developments, support and the opportunity to share wows and worries. A Pan Berkshire RE teachers' conference will hopefully be arranged in the next year or as part of the new syllabus launch process when it is produced.

SACRE Action Plan 2022-2023

Attached at Appendix 3

**Membership of Slough Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
2022 - 2023**

Meetings: 3 November 2022, 15 March and 04 July 2023

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	Vacancy	-
Islam	Zubayr Abbas Bowkan	2/3
Islam	Waqar Bhatti	0/3
Islam	Momade Faizal	3/3
Islam	Shujah Hamid	3/3
Judaism	Karen Appleby	2/3
Sikhism	Ashpreet Singh Nainu	3/3
Sikhism	Hardip Singh Sohal	2/3
Group B	The Church of England	
	Rev Gordon Briggs	2/3
	Christine Isles	3/3
	Andrea Sparrow	3/3
	Lynda Bussley	1/1
Group C	Teachers (representing Primary, Secondary & Special Schools)	
Primary	Munsoor Malik	2/3
Primary	Priya Lamba	2/3
Secondary	Ian Sharp	1/3
Secondary	Nagina Ali	1/1
	x 2 Vacancies	
Group D	The Local Authority	
	Councillor Akbar	1/2
	Councillor Bal	0/2
	Councillor Basra	2/2
	Councillor Brooker	2/2
	Councillor Smith	1/2
	Councillor E Ahmed	1/1
	Councillor Akram	1/1
	Councillor Brooker	1/1
	Councillor Instone	1/1
	Councillor Khawar	1/1
	Councillor Mohindra	1/1
	Councillor Naveed	1/1

**Membership of Slough Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
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Meetings: 3 November 2022, 15 March and 04 July 2023

Co-opted Member Robin Launder	Humanist	2/3
SACRE Professional Adviser	David Rees	3/3

DRAFT

Slough SACRE Action Plan: 2022-2023

Aim	Actions	Timescales	People Responsible	Cost	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023
A. CORE BUSINESS To be a supportive and proactive SACRE enjoying full and well-informed membership	1. Fill membership vacancies	Ongoing	SACRE Chair SACRE Clerk		This is an ongoing item – reviewed at each meeting		
	2. SACRE members attend termly SACRE meetings (3 per year) and teacher meetings and training events	Termly SACRE meetings: Autumn 2022 Spring 2023 Summer 2023	SACRE Chair/SACRE Adviser SACRE members SACRE Clerk	SACRE Adviser to prepare and attend 3 x1 day. SACRE Clerk to administer each meeting	3rd Nov 2022	15 th March 2023	4 th July 2023
	3. Produce annual SACRE Report	Autumn Term 2022	SACRE Adviser and clerk with foreword by SACRE Chair (input welcome from members)	SACRE Adviser x ½ day	Bring draft to Autumn 2022 meeting.	Send to NASACRE by Feb 2023	
	4. Review the action plan at each meeting	At each SACRE meeting	SACRE Adviser and SACRE	SACRE Adviser time	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting
	5. Subscribe to NASACRE Representation at annual NASACRE conference & AGM Attend other relevant and useful events	Ongoing	SACRE members SACRE Adviser Adviser to find out and inform	Subscription to NASACRE £105 - NASACRE Conference and AGM SACRE Adviser time to attend NASACRE conference x1 day	Annual Subscription rate £105		NASACRE AGM 2023

Slough SACRE Action Plan: 2022-2023

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Aim	Actions	Timescales	People Responsible	Cost	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023
	6. Monitor and offer guidance on Collective Worship in schools	ongoing	SACRE	TBD	At each meeting SACRE to discuss ways of monitoring and supporting collective worship – Adviser to share guidance produced from other SACREs for members to consider.		
B. To support teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in their schools.	1. Provide a termly RE network meeting for Slough teachers	ongoing	SACRE RE Adviser	Adviser time – prep and delivery 6x ½ days	Tues 4 th Oct & 15 th Nov	Tues 7 th Feb & 22 nd March	28 th June
	2. Produce an RE newsletter combining info, events and good practice – absorb NASACRE info	Termly	SACRE Adviser – SACRE members to offer suggestions	Adviser time to organise and design 3x ½ day	Sept 2022	Jan 2023	April 2023
	3. Maintain a database of school RE leaders	Ongoing but instigated in Autumn term as roles change	TBD -Adviser will keep a copy for direct distribution of RE resources and updates.	TBD – admin role?	Updates at each SACRE meeting – request for input ideas from SACRE members An update could be given at each meeting – discussion needed as to how to obtain the information. Requests sent out to schools via newsletter		
C. To support the ongoing work of the Pan Berkshire Hub	Consolidate and develop the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub.	Termly hub meetings	Slough SACRE members to attend where possible	Part of the hub commitment - £900 paid to Oxford diocese – reviewed yearly	To become a SACRE agenda item at each meeting		
	Monitor agreed syllabus and prepare for review	5-year cycle	ASC formed as part of the Hub	Advisor time? Or SACRE members on ASC?	Falls under the remit of the Pan Berks Hub as of writing		

Slough SACRE Action Plan: 2022-2023

Aim	Actions	Timescales	People Responsible	Cost	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023
	Consolidate and develop the Crossing the Bridges directory	ongoing	SACRE members to link with faith communities	Hub will need someone to take charge of this.		To become a SACRE agenda item at each meeting	This could be housed on the Pan Berkshire blog
	Contribute to the development of the 'Real People, Real faith' video clips	Ongoing (extended due to lockdown)	SACRE members	Part of the hub contribution – follow up work could be commissioned		Updates at each meeting as part of Hub update	Videos now hosted by NATRE – new clips recently made and will continue to be made
	Inform schools and contribute to /participate in Hub conference	Potentially TBD	SACRE members Hub links SACRE Adviser	Unknown?		Updates at each meeting	'Real People Real Faith' successfully launched – advertised in networks and newsletters – more clips to be added