

Annual SACRE Report 2023-2024

(September 2023-August 2024)

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1. Introduction and Overview

1.1 From the Chair

I want to express my gratitude to the teachers for their commitment to teaching Religious Education to students in our community. I also want to thank the members of Slough SACRE, our SACRE adviser David Rees, as well as the faith representatives and volunteers who contributed to the provision of RE in Slough.

This year, along with others in the Pan-Berkshire Hub, we have been involved in developing the new syllabus for Slough and Berkshire.

This report provides more details about these projects and others.

Ashpreet Singh Nainu
Chair – Slough SACRE

1.2 Statutory Responsibilities of SACRE

The Education Reform Act 1996 requires Local Education Authorities to convene a SACRE consisting of members appointed by the Local Authority to represent:

Group A Christian denominations and other religions and religious denominations

Group B The Church of England

Group C Teachers' Associations

Group D The Authority

After considerable consultation and discussion with interested bodies in Slough to ensure the SACRE would be representative, the Authority appointed the members as required by legislation.

Membership is for a period of three years and full members of the SACRE may co-opt non-voting members to the Council. **Membership and attendance for the period 2023-24 can be found in Appendix 1.** SACRE meetings are open to the public and Slough SACRE usually meets three times a year.

The SACRE can advise the Authority upon matters connected with RE and collective worship in county schools; matters such as teaching methods, materials and teacher training are mentioned in the Act. The advice offered by the SACRE carries no statutory force. In Slough, SACRE strives to work closely with Academies and Free Schools to try to ensure that all children and young people in the Borough receive high quality RE and schools provide appropriate daily acts of collective worship.

SACRE has two main statutory functions: it can require the LA to review its current Agreed Syllabus; and it may determine, on application by a head teacher, that the requirement for collective worship in a Maintained school to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all the pupils in that school. Each SACRE must publish an annual report on its work.

1.3 Background information on the demographics of Slough

Religion	Slough		England & Wales (UK)
Buddhist	776	0.5%	0.5%
Christian	50,664	32%	46.2%
Hindu	12,343	7.8%	1.7%
Jewish	85	0.1%	0.5%
Muslim	46,661	29.4%	6.5%
No answer	8,554	5.4%	6.0%
No religion	20,726	13.1%	37.2%
Other	716	0.5%	0.9%
Sikh	17,985	11.3%	0.6%

1.4 Purpose of the Report

The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) require that each year the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) of each local authority will 'publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year.'

In particular, the report shall:

- specify any matters in respect of which the Council has given advice to the Authority;
- broadly describe the nature of the advice given; and
- where any matter was not referred to the Council by the Authority, give the Council's reason for offering advice on the matter.

This report deals with these matters in summary, for the academic year September 2023 to August 2024.

1.5 SACRE meetings

SACRE held three meetings in the period September 2023 to August 2024.

2nd November 2023

At which the LA Officer sought SACRE's view on the Humanist representative being included in Group A. After some discussion, the vote was split with two Groups in favour and two against., so the proposition from the LA was not carried. SACRE also discussed the review of the Agreed Syllabus and established an Agreed Syllabus Conference comprising at least one representative from each Group and the Advisor. The ASC was to meet immediately after each full SACRE meeting. Andrew Ramsey was welcomed onto Group C. The SACRE plan and budget were up-dated and the first draft of the Annual Report submitted.

6th March 2024

At which SACRE received an up-date on the agreed Syllabus review and the most recent version shared. The shift towards an Religion and Worldviews approach was shared and explained, in line with recent research and developments in the RE community. SACRE was updated on the plan and the budget, with the recommendation that any remainder of the budget be set aside for the launch and training.

3rd July 2024

SACRE expressed gratitude to David Rees for all his support and welcomed the new advisor, Bill Moore. SACRE discussed the proposal from the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The recent Ofsted Subject Report for RE was introduced alongside the NASACRE response. It was agreed that this will prove helpful in working with teachers and leaders in schools. The new Plan and Budget were introduced and accepted.

2 Statutory responsibilities for RE: The Agreed Syllabus and support for RE

This academic year (2023-24) we have reviewed the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus. This work was carried out by the three advisers supporting the six Pan-Berkshire SACREs, who conducted extensive consultation to allow teachers, faith communities and SACRE representatives to contribute to its development. Regular reports were received through the Slough representative Agreed Syllabus Conference, who reported back to full SACRE at each meeting. The new syllabus is due to be published in Spring 2025, becoming the statutory RE document in all six Unitary Authorities from September 2025. A launch event and training will be planned for the summer term 2025.

For the first two terms, our 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). David left at the end of the Spring term and was replaced by Bill Moore, who is more local and so better able to attend meetings and visits in person. As a consequence, there were no network meeting in the Summer Term and the newsletter was near the end of the year. SACRE would like to thank David Rees for all his excellent work and support.

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

SACRE continues to encourage schools to consider going for an REQM award and the adviser continues to discuss the REQM with schools.

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. However, the review of the Agreed Syllabus has taken precedence. SACRE will return to this agenda once the syllabus is in place and teachers have some training and support.

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. This year, the Pan-Berkshire Hub formed as the Joint Agreed Syllabus Conference to work on the revision of the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus, led by the three Pan-Berkshire Advisers.

We include membership of NASACRE in our budget each year and some attend their webinar training sessions. The professional adviser helps Slough SACRE stay in touch with providers like RE Online, NATRE, Jigsaw 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.

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.

5 SACRE Arrangements

David Rees continued to serve as our Professional Adviser until the end of April 2024 when Bill Moore joined. 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. We agreed in 2024-25 to review membership of Group A and whether any additional worldviews should be included.

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 2024 SACRE was granted £5,000, SACRE is grateful for the support of Slough Council particularly in these days of stretched resources and budgets.

Appendix 1 - 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 2023-24

Attached at Appendix 3

**Membership of Slough Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
2023 - 2024**

Meetings: 2nd November 2023, 6th March and 3rd July 2024

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 (Chair)	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 Instone	1/1
	Councillor Khawar	1/1
	Councillor Mohindra	1/1
	Councillor Naveed	1/1

Co-opted Robin Launder	Humanist	2/3
SACRE Professional Adviser	David Rees Bill Moore (from April 2024)	2/2 1/1

Key Stage 4 Religious Studies: 2023

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391) – QAN: 60184000

Est. No.	Centre	No on Roll	No of Entries	Number of Pupils															Avg Pts	Percentage		
				9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Q	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1		9-5	9-4	9-1
4082	Baylis Court School	160	158	10	27	21	34	20	16	18	8	4	-	-	-	112	128	158	5.7	70.9	81.0	100
4085	Beechwood School	141	20	-	-	-	4	5	4	3	1	-	-	3	-	9	13	17	3.8	45.0	65.0	85.0
4003	Eden Girls' School, Slough	119	118	31	23	20	26	8	5	4	1	-	-	-	-	108	113	118	7.1	91.5	95.8	100
4005	Grove Academy	77	11	-	3	-	1	-	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	4	6	11	4.4	36.4	54.5	100
5407	Herschel Grammar School	152	33	8	4	9	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	33	33	7.2	100	100	100
4006	Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy	167	68	-	4	6	11	10	18	16	2	1	-	-	-	31	49	68	4.6	45.6	72.1	100
4510	Slough and Eton Church of England Business and Enterprise College	177	174	5	12	16	31	28	27	31	15	7	-	2	-	92	119	172	4.7	52.9	68.4	98.9
6905	The Langley Academy	179	178	14	18	27	27	24	16	28	13	10	-	1	-	110	126	177	5.2	61.8	70.8	99.4
5409	The Westgate School	231	230	3	14	22	35	42	36	38	18	17	-	3	2	116	152	225	4.5	50.4	66.1	97.8
5408	Upton Court Grammar School	164	164	50	38	35	30	7	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	160	161	164	7.5	97.6	98.2	100
4089	Wexham School	134	54	-	1	5	8	10	9	10	6	3	-	2	-	24	33	52	4.1	44.4	61.1	96.3
-	LA (State Funded)	2372	1209	121	144	161	219	154	134	153	65	45	-	11	2	799	933	1196	5.5	66.1	77.2	98.9

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391) – QAN: 60184012

Est. No.	Centre	No on Roll	No of Entries	Number of Pupils															Avg Pts	Percentage		
				9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Q	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1		9-5	9-4	9-1
4700	St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School	124	122	37	36	27	15	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	121	122	122	7.7	99.2	100	100
4800	St Joseph's Catholic High School	162	160	3	4	11	29	46	20	31	16	-	-	-	-	93	113	160	4.7	58.1	70.6	100
-	LA (State Funded)	2372	282	40	40	38	44	52	21	31	16	-	-	-	-	214	235	282	6.0	75.9	83.3	100

**Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391) – QAN:
60185946**

Est. No.	Centre	No on Roll	No of Entries	Number of Pupils														Avg Pts	Percentage		
				9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1		9-5	9-4	9-1
5405	Langley Grammar School	177	35	11	5	13	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	35	35	7.6	100	100	100
-	LA (State Funded)	2372	35	11	5	13	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	35	35	7.6	100	100	100

**Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391) – QAN:
60188790**

Est. No.	Centre	No on Roll	No of Entries	Number of Pupils														Avg Pts	Percentage		
				9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1		9-5	9-4	9-1
4006	Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy	167	1	0	0	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	5.0	100	100	100
-	LA (State Funded)	2372	1	0	0	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	5.0	100	100	100

**Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Short Course (394) – QAN:
60183998**

Est. No.	Centre	No on Roll	No of Entries	Number of Pupils													Avg Pts	Percentage		
				9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Q	U	X	9-5		9-4	9-1	
4006	Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy	167	92	-	1	-	4	3	7	20	19	18	-	15	5	0.0	8.7	16.3	78.3	
-	LA (State Funded)	2372	92	-	1	-	4	3	7	20	19	18	-	15	5	0.0	8.7	16.3	18.3	

Key Stage 5 Religious Studies: 2023**Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCE A level (111)**

Est. No.	School/College	No of Entries	Number of Pupils												Avg Pts	Percentage		
			*	A	B	C	D	E	Q	U	X	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E		A*-A	A*-B	A*-E
4082	Baylis Court School	10	1	-	2	6	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	10	34.0	10.0	30.0	100
4085	Beechwood School	9	-	-	1	2	5	1	-	-	-	-	1	9	23.3	0.0	11.1	100
5407	Herschel Grammar School	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	20.0	0.0	0.0	100
5405	Langley Grammar School	7	-	2	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	7	34.5	28.6	42.9	100
4510	Slough and Eton Church of England Business and Enterprise College	4	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	17.5	0.0	0.0	100
4700	St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School	17	3	6	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	9	13	17	44.7	52.9	76.5	100
4800	St Joseph's Catholic High School	3	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	33.3	0.0	66.7	100
5409	The Westgate School	13	-	-	-	3	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	13	19.2	0.0	0.0	100
5408	Upton Court Grammar School	11	-	1	6	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	7	11	36.4	9.1	63.6	100
4089	Wexham School	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-	LA (State Funded)	76	4	9	16	22	16	8	0	0	1	13	29	75	-	17.1	38.2	98.7

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCE AS level (121)

Est. No.	School/College	No of Entries	Number of Pupils									Avg Pts	Percentage		
			A	B	C	D	E	U	X	A-B	A-E		A-B	A-E	
5405	Langley Grammar School	11	4	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	9	11	20.9	81.8	100
-	LA (State Funded)	11	4	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	9	11	20.9	81.8	100

GCSE and Equivalent Results Summary in Slough LA: 2022/23 Figures (

	Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4	% Grade 5 or above in English and maths GCSEs
		2023
Arbour Vale School	35	0.0
Baylis Court School	160	75.6
Beechwood School	141	31.2
Ditton Park Academy	172	66.3
Eden Girls' School	119	80.7
Grove Academy	77	46.8
Herschel Grammar School	152	99.3
Langley Grammar School	177	99.4
Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy	167	33.5
Slough and Eton CE Business and Enterprise College	177	57.6
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School	124	99.2
St Joseph's Catholic High School	162	69.8
The Langley Academy	179	66.5
The Westgate School	231	55.0
Upton Court Grammar School	164	98.2
Wexham School	134	32.8
Slough LA	2372	66.7
National: state funded schools only		60.3

Slough SACRE action plan: 2023-4

Aim	Actions	Timescales	People Responsible	Cost	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Autumn 2024
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: Spring 2024 Summer 2024 Autumn 2024	SACRE Chair/SACRE Adviser SACRE members SACRE Clerk	SACRE Adviser to prepare and attend 3 x1 day SACRE Clerk to administer each meeting	Wednesday 6 th March 2024, 4.30pm	Wednesday 3 rd July 2024, 4.30pm	Wednesday 6 th Nov 2024, 4.30pm
	3. Produce annual SACRE Report	Autumn Term 2024	SACRE Adviser and clerk with foreword by SACRE Chair (input welcome from members)	SACRE Adviser x ½ day	Send to NASACRE by Feb 2024		Bring draft to Autumn 2024 meeting.
	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 - <i>NASACRE Conference and AGM SACRE Adviser time to attend NASACRE conference x1 day</i>	<i>Strictly RE – Jan 2024</i> SW SACRE conference March 2024	NASACRE AGM 20 th May 2024? FtF or virtual?	Annual Subscription rate £105

	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 3x ½ days	20 th March 2024	TBD	TBD
	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	Jan 2024	April 2024	Sept 2024
					Updates at each SACRE meeting – request for input ideas from SACRE members		
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? Adviser to send updated list to clerk.	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.	Next hub meeting – TBA (18 March?)	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	
	Contribute to the development of the 'Real People, Real faith' video clips	Ongoing (extended post 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
	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 intermittently This could be housed on the Pan Berkshire blog