

Introduction

Introduction	2
Words from the Chair of SACRE	2
Summary of SACRE meetings	3
RE (statutory responsibilities)	3
The locally agreed syllabus	3
Standards and monitoring of RE	4
Collective Worship (CW) (statutory responsibilities)	5
Determinations	5
Links with other bodies	6
Local SACRE involvement	6
SACRE's own arrangements (statutory responsibilities)	6
LA support for SACRE	6
Membership	7
Appendices	8
Appendix 1 Attendance 2024-25	8
Appendix 2 Finance Report 2024-25	9
Appendix 3 SACRE Action Plan	9
Appendix 4 Meeting agendas	14
Appendix 5 GCSE RS results	14
Appendix 6 Details of CPD provided to schools.	15
Appendix 7 Distribution List	15

Words from the Chair of SACRE

It has been my pleasure to Chair Bracknell Forest SACRE in the year from September 2024 to August 2025. As ever I am deeply indebted to all members of the Committee for giving their time voluntarily to the work of this Committee. I would like to extend particular thanks to those members of the Local Authority who have offered wise counsel and support through some tricky meetings this year. Sadly, we said goodbye to our Diocesan Adviser, Anne Andrews who retired at the end of this academic year after serving the LA well for 11 years, more recently steering us through the development of a new Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE. We welcomed Katie Dickens as our new adviser and are delighted that we shall continue to be well served by the Diocese.

The main target in our Action Plan this year was to unanimously agree a proposal for a new syllabus developed in partnership with RE advisers and other West Berkshire SACREs. This ambition has only partially been achieved. On 16th October 2024 Bracknell Forest Agreed Syllabus Conference resolved that the pan-Berkshire syllabus be adopted by Bracknell Forest SACRE, and recommended to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning for formal adoption.

However, on March 4th, 2025, Bracknell Forest received a challenge to the Syllabus from a group of Judaism representatives. On the following day, March 5th, 2025, a decision was made by SACRE members to postpone the adoption while this challenge was investigated and any action that needed to be taken could be presented at the next meeting. At time of writing, the Syllabus is still under review. We felt, however, that the training event for teachers planned on 27 March 2025 should still take place on those aspects of the syllabus that were secure. Bracknell Forest sent 25 teachers, and the syllabus in principle was well received. The event was attended by over 170 teaching staff. Despite these challenges the state of RE in our local schools is healthy, I am proud to report from those teachers that sit on our Committee, and who attend the RE hubs that children enjoy RE and the subject continues to make a huge contribution to diversity and community cohesion in our schools.

Yours respectfully,

Vicki Gibson Chair (appointed October 16th, 2024)

Summary of SACRE meetings

- Bracknell Forest SACRE has met three times during the year 2024 -25, on 16^h October 2024, 5th March 2025 and 8th July 2025.
- The Pan Berkshire syllabus was challenged by key members of a number of the Pan Berkshire SACREs, between ASC approval and council ratification. The LA chose to ask the ASC to reconvene in order to find a way forward. Therefore, the bulk of the work in the academic year 2024-25 has centred around how a new locally agreed syllabus specific to Bracknell Forest would be managed and agreed for the next academic year.
- The RE adviser retired at Easter with the new RE adviser, who is an employee of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, taking up her new role from 1st April 2025.
- All meetings of the SACRE and the ASC have been held online and broadcast on YouTube.

RE (statutory responsibilities)

The locally agreed syllabus

- A concern was raised to the Local Authority on 4 March 2025 about the legitimacy of the Agreed Syllabus process. This triggered an investigation; if valid concerns emerged, the Agreed Syllabus Conference could be reconvened. As a result, the Cabinet Member decision was deferred.
- This matter is likely to continue into the academic year 2025-26.
- As a result of the challenge, the agreed launch of the Pan-Berkshire syllabus event, was reframed as a training event for schools across Berkshire. The event took place on 27th March 2025 and was well-attended by schools. It has subsequently been challenging for schools to be in a holding pattern pending the outcome of SACRE deliberations, particularly as the old syllabus remains in use following the perceived launch event.

Standards and monitoring of RE

- With the added complexity around the review of the locally agreed syllabus, there has been minimal capacity for any specific monitoring of the syllabus, although the Voluntary Controlled schools, using the current Agreed Syllabus, have been shown to have strong outcomes in RE through SIAMS inspections.
 - Teachers responded positively to the artefact boxes, especially the Judaism and Hindu sets. The Sikhi box is now complete and available.. Artefact resources can supplement library-based materials, at teachers' discretion.
 - Current SACRE constitution was deemed to be out of date. Clerk, Chair, and legal team will draft a new version for approval in March 2026. Members asked for input by end of March 2025.
 - A draft Code of Conduct, based on NASACRE and Nolan principles, was presented. Members generally supportive; each member was asked to confirm with their nominating body.
-
- No LA schools have received a deep dive in RE from Ofsted, and no SIAMS inspections of VC schools took place, so standards have not been explored that way. No reports have been received from LA school Standards in Education Partners (STEPS) from Ofsted feedback sessions.
 - No schools in Bracknell have applied for or achieved REQM awards.
 - SACRE advertises local and national training to schools through the termly newsletter. This newsletter also contains information about resources that are available, and information about faith traditions. The initiative to include a report on the RE network meeting from the previous term, so that teachers unable to attend can see what has been discussed has continued to pay dividends, resulting in better attendance at meetings.
 - SACRE has not received any complaints about RE in schools.
 - The LA has been advised that SACRE should be informed of any Deep Dives that take place in RE, or where RE is mentioned in feedback, as part of the broad and balanced curriculum. SACRE has not been informed of any deep dives in RE and no feedback has been received from any of the STEPs. This is partly due to the large number of academies in the borough, that sit outside of the LA remit.
 - There was a positive visit to Ranelagh School:
 - Very high GCSE and A-level uptake.
 - School teaches Islam, Christianity, and Buddhism at KS3/KS4, omitting Hinduism, Sikhi, and Judaism based on Ofsted's advice to avoid excessive breadth.
 - SACRE noted Ranelagh is an academy, not bound by the local syllabus.

- GCSE Results (Appendix 5)
 - o Bracknell's estimated **33% entry** is **nearly double** the national full-course RS entry rate. This indicates stronger curricular commitment to RS.
 - o Bracknell's **9–4 (71.6%)** sits **close to** (and slightly above) the broad national 4+/C+ benchmark of **67.4%** for all GCSE subjects. Given that RS often performs **at or just above national averages**, Bracknell's 71.6% suggests **secure alignment with national RS norms**.
 - o Bracknell's **9–5 (59.3%)** is a **solid** result. Nationally, RS tends to show a strong mid-grade distribution (many pupils achieving grades 5–6).
 - o Bracknell's 59.3% therefore indicates the borough is **performing in line with national expectations** for RS, neither notably lagging nor substantially above.
- A Level Results
 - o 68.4% of students taking A Level RS in Bracknell achieved grades A*–C compared to 75.2% nationally.
 - o The data shows that **only 40 students** took RS at A-level across the borough. Small cohorts produce **volatile outcomes**: a handful of lower-scoring students can significantly depress the percentage.

Collective Worship (CW) (statutory responsibilities)

- The LA has been advised that they should report to SACRE on any schools visited where they observe good Collective Worship, or where they are aware that it is not being adequately provided. No reports or feedback have been received.

Determinations

- No determinations currently exist in Bracknell Forest, and none have been applied for.
- No Teacher training on collective worship has been provided, but materials and advice for schools are communicated in the SACRE newsletter.
- No complaints have been received about collective worship. SACRE does not have the capacity to monitor collective worship formally, therefore SACRE has not advised the LA on any matters connecting to worship, other than the requirement to feedback.

Links with other bodies

- Bracknell SACRE continues to be a subscribed member of NASACRE and has also purchased the training package. Members have attended some of the training and the new members have been given the NASACRE handbook and encouraged to attend the 'So you've joined your local SACRE' webinar that runs at least twice a year. Members were also booked for the AGM, and the adviser is a member of the NASACRE executive committee. The NASACRE briefings are distributed to SACRE and many of the items are discussed in SACRE meetings and used to inform the agenda.
- The RE Adviser is a member of AREIAC, and information is shared where it is relevant.
- The RE networks are NATRE linked and NATRE resources are shared. The RE networks are also advertised on the new RE Hubs website. Faith communities have also been invited to participate in the hub training for speakers and places of worship.
- The RE adviser is also adviser to the Diocese, and two other Berkshire SACREs and so training opportunities are shared wherever feasible.

Local SACRE involvement

- No Governor training has been provided.

SACRE's own arrangements (statutory responsibilities)

LA support for SACRE

- SACRE pays for a professional adviser for five and a half days per financial year. This covers preparation for and attendance at meetings, preparing and running the three RE network meetings, writing and editing the termly SACRE newsletter and writing the annual report. This does not cover adviser time for visiting or supporting schools, other than as additional work, paid for by the schools.
- SACRE is ably supported by a knowledgeable clerk. The local authority officer attends meetings and RE networks, as well as providing the booking facilities and communication processes. Both LA officer and clerk are involved in the agenda planning meetings with the chair and adviser.

Membership

- There has been some movement in the membership of the SACRE this year. There has been more consistent representation from the local authority. In addition, there have been new members appointed to groups A, C & D. There is also a new RE Adviser for the committee from April 2025.
- Training for SACRE (and ASC) members has been offered through the delivery of the NASACRE presentation on ASCs. Members have also been encouraged to attend NASACRE webinars. Members were also made aware of the Culham St Gabriel's online training courses that would give them background on RE and Worldviews.
- Financial arrangements for SACRE (and where appropriate, ASC).

Appendices

Appendix 1 Attendance 2024-25 SACRE

Name	Role	16.10.24	5.3.25	8.7.26
Vicki Gibson	Group A	Present	Present	Present
Ossie	Group A	Apologies	Apologies	
Anderson-Peled				
Sevde Gundogdu	Group A	Apologies	Expected	Present (virtual)
Ron Bailey	Group A	Present	Present	Present
Kathy Hadfield	Group A	Present	Present	Present
Dilip Ladwa	Group A	Present	Present	Apologies
Shira Solomons	Group A			Present
Rajdip	Group A	Present	Present	Present
Marok-Dhanju				
Alan Montgomery	Group A	Present	Apologies	Present
Jo Perrett	Group A	Apologies	Expected	Present (virtual)
Dr Oludolapo	Group A	Present	Present	Present
Ogunbawo				
Jill Hanson	Group B	Present	Expected	Expected
Clare Hawkins	Group B	Present	Present	Present
Tim Griffith	Group C	Apologies	Apologies	Present
Anna Kennedy	Group C	Present	Present	Present (virtual)
Jo Roclawski	Group C	Present (virtual)	Apologies	Apologies
Cllr Roy Bailey	Group D	Present (virtual)	Present	Present
Cllr Gareth Barnard	Group D	Present	Present	Present (virtual)
Cllr Tricia Brown	Group D	Present	Present	Present
Cllr Ryan Frost	Group D	Present	Expected	Apologies

Cllr Donna Pressland	Group D	Present	Present	
Tracey Bradshaw	LA Officer	Apologies	Apologies	Present
Anne Andrews	RE Adviser	Present	Present	Present
Lizzie Rich	Clerk	Expected	Expected	Expected
Katie Dickens	RE Adviser			Present (virtual)

Appendix 2 SACRE Finances 2024-25

Details of expenditure	Date	Outgoing
NASACRE	16/04/2024	£120.00
NASACRE annual subscription	22/07/2024	£115.00
ODBE - Service Agreement 2024/25	31/03/2025	£2,000.00

Appendix 3 2023-25 Action Plan

Priority 1 Syllabus review.					
	Action: What we need to do?	Means: How we will do it?	Key providers: Who are they?	Outcome/ Reason: Why do this?	When?
1.	Syllabus review meetings	a) Alongside SACRE meetings b) Second council for the review c) Communication with other SACREs	Agreed syllabus council Anne Andrews Vicki Gibson Clare Hawkins Tracey Bradshaw Hub	Provides range of views on syllabus Draws on different expertise Allows for a thorough examination of the syllabus Ensures the syllabus is fit for purpose in every aspect (faith and academic)	Ongoing
2.	Develop content for the syllabus	a. Religious content is suitable b. teachers are comfortable with the content	Faith members Teacher members RE network	Ensures the syllabus is fit for purpose in every aspect (faith and academic) Schools need a syllabus which is rigorous and allows for a high level of religious literacy Permits broadening of CW and RE teaching.	Spring and Summer term 2024

3.	Writing up the formal syllabus	a)Support LA with the writing b) utilising local support	LA Schools Dept Ask Faith Leaders	Pulls all the work together A working document for school's to use. Ensuring this is done to a high standard	Summer and Winter terms 2024
4.	Work with other SACREs to ensure consistency and high standards	a) Using the HUB to work with other SACREs	RE Adviser and LA Officer Hubs Vicki Gibson Clare Hawkins	Promotes visibility of SACRE Encourages working with the other local SACREs Avoids repetition and simple errors	ongoing

Priority 2: Develop use of the artefacts across the borough

	Action: What we need to do?	Means: How we will do it?	Key providers: Who are they?	Outcome/ Reason: Why do this?	When?
1.	Sort through the artefacts	a)Faith reps coming together b)go through the artefacts that we have	Faith reps Anne Andrews Vicki Gibson Tracey Bradshaw	To work out if they are all fit for purpose Determining the best use for the artefacts	March 2024

2.	Deliver the artefacts to Bracknell library	a)Hiring a removal team to move the artefacts b) Organise disposal of unwanted artefacts c) decide which will be handled, or displayed	Vicki Gibson Tracey Bradshaw External company	Move to a more visible place Help pupils to appreciate diversity	Summer 2024
3.	Create activities around the artefacts	Using the remaining artefacts to create an engaging activity to make the most of the artefacts	Clare Hawkins Faith reps Teacher reps RE Network	Ensure the artefacts get used To create purposeful, thought-provoking activities to make the most of these artefacts	Summer 2024
4.	Advertise the activities.	Use network meetings Use schools visits	RE network SACRE members Clare Hawkins	To make sure the activities and artefacts will get used	Summer 2024

Priority 3: Promote the development of good religious education across the local authority area					
	Action: What we need to do?	Means: How we will do it?	Key providers: Who are they?	Outcome/ Reason: Why do this?	When?
1.	Enhance the role of network meetings	a) Enhance SACRE newsletter to include progress on the Action Plan	LA SACRE Officers & Members	To raise awareness and share information	Ongoing
	Adviser + LA	b) Arrange Webinars	RE Adviser RE Adviser, RE Leads & LA Admin	To encourage support amongst practitioners	Ongoing
2.	Share best practice SACRE members Adviser Faith Groups Schools	a) Collect examples for Newsletters b) Use network meetings for sharing	Input from Faith Groups and SACRE members + teachers Schools including RE Leads	To provide exemplars and materials To offer mutual support and help.	Ongoing
3.	Enable faith speakers to share their perspective Adviser Faith Leaders Community Leaders	a) advertise through school visits b) use of networks	Faith practitioners and Youth Workers	To expand pupils horizons to appreciate different cultures and ways of expressing what people believe and think.	Ongoing

4.	Create understanding between faiths Schools Faith & Community Leaders	Enable digital sharing at collective worship	School Facilitators and Governors Local Faith & Community leaders	To work towards a strong sense of community cohesion and interaction with tolerance.	Ongoing
----	---	--	--	--	---------

Appendix 4 Meeting agendas

Full agendas and Minutes for all SACRE meetings can be [here](#).

Appendix 5 GCSE RS results

GCSE RS 2024

School	NOR	NOE	% cohort taking	9 -5	% 9 -5	9 - 4	% 9 - 4
Bracknell Forest	1836	266	14.5%	161	61%	199	75%
National (state funded)	627930	105850	17%	63810	60%	74800	71%

A Level RS 2024

School	NOE	A*-B	A* - E	A*-B	A* - E
Bracknell Forest	24	14	23	58.3%	95.8%
National (state funded)	14530	7920	14150	54.5%	97%

Appendix 6 Details of CPD provided to schools.

All CPD is overseen by the LA and linked to the priorities of the education department. Bookings are made through the central Can-Do booking, as for all Bracknell school CPD. It is the only CPD provided free of charge to schools.

Appendix 7 Distribution List

This Annual Report should be circulated to the following groups:

- SACRE members
- Council members
- Education Department and schools o Libraries
- NASACRE
- Department for Education