



Annual SACRE Report 2019-20

The SACRE has several aspects to its role. These include:

- ❖ Advising the local authority on matters relating to collective worship and religious education
- ❖ Advising on methods of teaching and resources for religious education
- ❖ Considering requests for determinations from any schools which apply to have daily worship which is other than of a broadly Christian character
- ❖ Identifying and revising an Agreed Syllabus for religious education

In principle, every pupil is entitled to RE of the highest quality... A core duty of the SACRE is to gain an overview of the quality of the RE provision in LA Maintained schools and to develop effective strategies to promote the highest standards." - National Association of SACRES (NASACRE)

To help with this endeavour the Bracknell Forest Borough SACRE works with NASACRE (the National Association of SACRES), the Diocese of Oxford and the other Berkshire SACRES.

This report sets out a summary of the work of the Bracknell Forest SACRE over the academic year 2019 - 2020.

The minutes of the meetings which give more detail can be found at

<http://democratic.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=157>

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

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Introduction

Introduction to Bracknell Forest SACRE Annual Report

During the year Bracknell Forest SACRE has continued to evolve and develop with new members joining and actively participating in meetings. This enthusiastic involvement of committee members has in turn enabled us to start work on a three-year action plan which will be used to shape and take forward the work of SACRE. The focus of the plan is around the core objectives of a SACRE and presents opportunities for members to really get involved in the support of the teaching of RE and World views in Bracknell Forest.

It is often said that in these fast changing and challenging times that RE and World Views teaching can contribute significantly to the development of our children, can combat radicalisation, and promote good emotional wellbeing and more widely strong community cohesion. |In conjunction with Westhill and other Berkshire SACREs this year also saw the planning and delivery of the first videos of different faiths to support teaching.

COVID-19 has impacted on the delivery of our three-year plan and teaching in schools, but we are confident that once the pandemic is managed, we will pick up the pace again. SACRE members have demonstrated great flexibility through meeting virtually and we are exploring the role virtual meetings can play in the longer term.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who teach RE and Worldviews in our schools and all SACRE members for their dedication and involvement.

Gareth Barnard

Chair of SACRE

Advice Offered

a) Local Authority:

- With a change of LA officer SACRE had again to request that budget and Ofsted reports be made available and this was duly done by the second meeting of the year.
- The LA had been advised of the expectation that RE should be back on schools' curriculum in the new academic year, even with some reductions in the breadth of the RE provided.

b) Schools:

- Support and advice to schools has been offered through the RE Networks and the SACRE newsletter.
- Two of the three planned network meetings took place. The first of the year gave teachers an opportunity to share resources and teaching materials that they found useful, while the second focused on the question of Intent in the RE curriculum and schools were advised that the curriculum for RE needed to be coherent and show the way that units of work linked to each other. The third was going to focus on implementation and impact but did not happen due to Covid-19.
- The SACRE newsletters have offered information on training courses available locally, Ofsted, festivals, Inter-faith week, resources for online teaching and CPD, collective worship and the work of SACRE.

c) Government:

- No correspondence has happened between SACRE and the government.

Standards, quality & provision of RE

a) Public exams:

- No public exams have taken place this year due to the closure of schools from 23rd March – 1st June for all but the vulnerable and children of key workers. Results this year are based on Centre Assessed Grades and so will not be published.

b) Attainment in RE:

- With the majority of pupils working from home in a variety of ways the standards attained in RE will not be measurable.

c) Quality of provision:

- A presentation from one of the secondary schools at the beginning of the academic year demonstrated that RE is being taken more seriously. This was a school where provision had been patchy, but the appointment of a new RE leader was putting the curriculum back where it should be, with RE returning to Y9, and to A level.
- The intention of the school was to raise the profile of RE across the school, and trips were going to be included in the long term planning for the subject.
- While the RE ambassador project had not engaged a wide range of schools, the secondary school already participating in the project had continued to train up and send students to local primary schools. School closures and restrictions means that this project will need to be put on hold for the time being.
- The new Hindu representative on SACRE is keen to work with schools on teaching Hinduism. This will be incorporated into the planning for next academic year.

- d) Withdrawal: No schools have sought support with issues of withdrawal.
- e) Complaints: No complaints have been received by SACRE about either the quality or provision of RE.

Agreed Syllabus

- a) Review: no review is underway currently.
- b) Date of next review
 - Under current legislation the next syllabus review will not take place until 2023

Standard, quality & provision of Collective Worship

- a) Provision and quality:
 - With the changes to school provision during the year it is not possible to know about either the provision or quality of collective worship offered during the pandemic. A survey will be conducted in the new year to find out how schools managed during the summer term
- b) Determinations:
 - No requests for determinations have been received
- c) Complaints:
 - No complaints about collective worship have been received

Management of SACRE

- a) Attendance:
 - Attendance has been much better this year and every meeting has been quorate, and it is more usual for people to give apologies if they are unable to attend. The least well attended meeting was in the fortnight before lockdown and the first online meeting presented some members with technical challenges, but both meetings were still quorate.
- b) Membership and training:
 - Membership has grown over the last year, with new Hindu and Sikh reps, a wider range of teacher representatives and more councillors. Neither the local synagogue nor the Jewish Board of Deputies has been able to put us in contact with a new Jewish faith representative.
 - Chair and vice-chair have remained stable, as has the clerk, but there was yet another change of local authority officer mid-year.
 - New members are sent the handbook for SACRE members, but this year training was amalgamated with the creation of the SACRE development plan, as that established what the role and responsibilities for SACRE would be for the coming three years.
 - This development plan is an exciting new venture for Bracknell Forest SACRE, and the first project being planned will involve school improvement advisors and governors in the collection of data and a pupil survey to inform SACRE of the current state of RE post-Covid-19. The decision to use people who would be visiting schools anyway has been made in order to reduce the number of visitors to school for infection control measures.

- c) Pan-Berkshire SACRE hub
 - Bracknell Forest has continued to work with the other Berkshire SACRES (Reading, West Berkshire, Wokingham, Slough, and Windsor and Maidenhead) as part of the hub. The major project has been the Westhill funded Real People, Real Faith film project. Four of the six planned filming sessions took place in places of worship before lockdown. Teachers interviewed members of the communities using questions from the syllabus. The film maker has made the first cuts available so that three teachers are able to start work producing the first round of notes. TrueTube has been approached as a host and hopefully the films will be available early in the new academic year.
- d) Complaints: SACRE has not had to deal with any complaints

Contribution to Local Authority Wider Agenda

- a) School support:
 - The LA officer attends RE Network meetings to ensure consistency of message and the Forest Learning Alliance will be taking bookings and offering support too.
- b) Links to broader community issues
 - Community cohesion is one of the key community issues in Bracknell Forest and so the key contribution of SACRE here is in the production of the films and the development of the SCARE development plan.
- c) Community Cohesion
 - SACRE members are involved in the inter-faith group and the interfaith group is now a source of faith representatives for SACRE. Closer working between the two groups will lead to better understanding of different faiths.

Summary

After a good start with groups working on the SACRE development plan, the rest of the year has presented challenges, which SACRE members have worked hard to overcome. A working group is taking the development plan and creating an action plan for the new academic year. I am excited that the work undertaken will be game changing for Bracknell SACRE in terms of how well informed we are about what is happening in our schools.

It has been encouraging to see new members from schools and faiths joining SACRE and bringing new enthusiasm with them. The number of councillors involved demonstrates that the Local Authority takes its role in supporting SACRE seriously and the prospect of some joint working on support for schools is exciting.

The films from the Westhill funded project are also a source of encouragement, as they will give teachers and pupils an opportunity to experience more of the diversity and lived reality of a range of faiths. We really hope that it will soon be possible to make the remaining planned films in a Baptist Church and a Gurdwara, as well as exploring wider possibilities.

Anne Andrews (Adviser to SACRE)

SACRE Membership and Attendance 2019-20

| Name | Group | 13-Nov-19 | 12-03-20 | 13-07-20 |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Vicki Gibson | A – Free Church | P | P | P |
| Wayne Erasmus | A – Free Church | A | x | x |
| Vacancy | A – Free Church | | | |
| Robyn Lynch | A - Catholic | P | A | A |
| Jo Perret | A - Catholic | P (observer) | P | x |
| Arfan Rashid | A - Muslim | P | A | A |
| Dilip Ladwa | A - Hindu | P | P | P |
| Rajdip Marok-Dhanju, | A - Sikh | | P new | x |
| Vacancy | A - Buddhist | | | |
| Vacancy | A - Judaism | | | |
| Adrian Laws | B – C of E | P | A | x |
| Father David Clues | B – C of E | P | P | A |
| Rvd Malcolm Chambers | B – C of E | P (observer) | A | A |
| Jill Hanson | B – C of E | P | A | P |
| Ruth Jackson | C – Primary HT | A | P | P |
| Clare Hawkins | C - Secondary | P (observer) | A | A |
| Deborah Windsor | C – Primary | P | A | P |
| Elaine White | C - Primary | | A | X |
| Madeline Diver (VC) | C - Voice | P | P | P |
| Gareth Barnard (C) | D | P | P | P |
| Isabel Mattick | D | P | P | P |
| Cllr Bhandari | D | P | A | A |
| Alvin Finch | D | P | P | P |
| Lizzie Gibson | D | P | P | P |
| Kathy Hadfield | Co-Opted | P | A | P |
| Gary Peterson (19) Tracey Bradshaw (20) | LA officer | P | P | P |
| Lizzie Rich | Clerk | P | P | P |
| Anne Andrews | Adviser | P | P | P |

Key:

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|
| Present | X= no apologies | Apologies given | Vacancy |
| Left/resigned | Observer | New member | |