



Annual SACRE Report 2021-2022

(Sep 2021-Aug 2022)

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1. Introduction and Overview

In 2021-22 we were recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools faced the daunting task of regaining ground after all the lost time of the previous year. At SACRE we were mindful of this and sought to support schools wherever possible. One example of this was the distribution of 78 care packages containing the book "Make Every RE Lesson Count". We were also able to arrange some extra tutoring sessions for pupils, and CPD sessions for teachers. Many thanks are due to our Vice-Chair Clare Hawkins who did much of this work on top of her full-time teaching role.

This year saw the extension of the *Real People, Real Faith* videos to include a greater range of faith traditions. These videos, produced by the Pan-Berkshire Hub, were starting to be used and valued by schools.

As ever we were blessed to have the services of our Professional Consultant David Rees who again provided the regular teachers' network meetings which have become a central part of what we offer. David also continued to produce the termly newsletter which is a great source of information for teachers.

This year we added Equality and Diversity to each of our agendas and invited a representative from West Berkshire Council to talk to us about this, although this was delayed until a future meeting.

Two new membership applications were in process during the year, Dilip Ladwa in Group A and Roseanna Obsiye in Group C. We lost Maria Pratico and Robin Sharples from Group B as both moved away. Rose Carberry joined us as the new Principal Adviser for School Improvement, and also found a new LA Advisor for us in Kate House, who would start in autumn 2022.

Attendance at all three meetings was good, and we are grateful to everyone for their commitment and support. Three different people clerked our meetings.

At West Berkshire SACRE we are keen to offer direct support to our local schools in their practice of collective worship (CW) and the teaching of RE. We spend time discussing how we are doing this and possible developments in doing so. This year we have again given RE much more attention than CW.

2. Statutory Responsibilities in RE

In West Berkshire we produce our Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) in conjunction with the other five SACREs in Berkshire once every five years. The LAS is well-established in most of our schools, and most academies have also adopted it.

During the year we discussed the new Agreed Syllabus due to be published in 2023. Due to the pandemic, and having consulted with the other Berkshire SACREs, we decided along with them to delay this until 2024. The preparation work was already underway.

In 2021-22 we continued to monitor and support the teaching of RE regularly. We were able to visit several individual schools during the year in order to support RE staff there.

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

SACRE is not aware of any Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM) awards this year but is keen to promote the REQM. Our Professional Adviser David Rees is an REQM assessor and often includes information about it to teachers at network meetings.

3. Statutory Responsibilities in Collective Worship

SACRE is aware of the need to monitor collective worship and continues to engage with local religion and worldview communities to provide appropriate speakers to help schools hear the lived experience and lead reflections. Following the pandemic, however, many schools are still hesitant about inviting outside speakers in. 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 tie ins 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 West Berkshire SACRE works closely with our sister SACREs in the Pan-Berkshire Hub. David Rees and David Taylor attend regular meetings of the Hub. We include membership of NASACRE in our budget each year. David Rees helps us stay in touch with RE Online and the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Links to other organisations are actively being sought and SACRE members are encouraged to investigate local and national contacts.

5. Local Involvement

As well as our teacher members, our Chairman David Taylor and other members of SACRE are involved in a number of local schools in various ways, for example organising and chairing panel discussions with faith and worldview representatives in secondary schools. These sometimes make the local press.

6. SACRE Arrangements

As mentioned above, David Rees continued to serve as our Professional Adviser, and we benefit hugely from his expertise and involvement. Jack Karimi from West Berkshire Council now serves as our Clerk. Both of them keep in contact with the Chair between SACRE meetings in order to share relevant information. Our new LA Adviser is Kate House, a local headteacher.

All four membership groups are regularly represented at meetings, and there were no issues with quoracy this year.

David Taylor updated the one-page overview of West Berkshire SACRE in order to help new members understand our purpose and role. No formal training for SACRE members was accessed this year.

In the financial year beginning April 2022 SACRE was granted £4840, the same figure as the previous year.

Our meetings continued online rather than in person right up until our summer meeting in 2022, and even then only a minority of us met in person, with the rest joining on screen.

Appendix 1 - Public Examination Results

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Appendix 2 – Continuing Professional Development Provided to Schools

Our Professional Adviser David Rees has continued to provide regular network meetings for primary RE leads, and has also attended secondary networks.

Appendix 3 – Action Plan

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Membership of West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 2021-2022

Representing	Member	Meetings attended
Group A	Christian denominations and other religions	
	Mr. Mobasshir Mushtaq	3
	Rabbi Zvi Solomons	2
	Revd David Taylor (Chair)	3
Group B	The Church of England	
	Mrs Valerie Bolan	3
	Mrs Maria Pratico	1

	Mr. Robin Sharples	2
	Mrs Mary Stagg	2
Group C	Associations representing teachers	
	Ms. Amanda Bedding	3
	Mrs Clare Hawkins	3
	Mr. Christopher Ward	3
Group D	The Local Authority	
	Councillor Billy Drummond	3
	Councillor Tony Linden	1
	Councillor David Marsh	2
	Councillor Lynne Doherty	3
Professional RE Adviser	David Rees	3
LA Adviser	Vacant	
Principal Adviser for School Improvement	Rose Carberry	2
Clerk	Janet Giddings	1
	Jessica Bailiss	1
	Jack Karimi	1