



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Standing Advisory
Council on
Religious Education

Annual Report 2012

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Chairman's Foreword

Wokingham's SACRE has continued to work to ensure the embedding of the New Revised Syllabus. Following the successful joint launch with Reading SACRE in June 2013, the Wokingham SACRE set up Primary and Secondary Network meetings under the direction of the Local Authority's consultant, Jan Lever. These have proved to be well attended in the Autumn (2012) and Spring (2013) terms, providing a venue for schools to share work in the many schools and enabling reflection on the high level of commitment and enthusiasm.

These meetings also help the SACRE to gain a clearer picture of what is going on in schools with regard to RE. Teachers have requested a directory of speakers who will come into schools to give presentations on key aspects of the major religions. This is being given top priority with a view to having this ready for November 2013. Also the SACRE is looking into facilitating visits for teachers to places of worship. Links with the Reading SACRE will prove advantageous here. Jan Lever is also LA consultant for Reading and to help foster closer links, Michael Freeman, current Chair of WBC SACRE, has joined the Reading SACRE. Wokingham Borough Council continues to be a strong and steadfast supporter of the SACRE and the LA consultant has regular meetings with the link representatives of the Council.

The SACRE has recently co-opted a Humanist member to write the Humanism section currently missing in the Revised New Syllabus. The co-option is for an extended period until the successful completion of the task. The Humanist section should be ready for circulation in November 2013.

The recent joint conference of the Berkshire SACREs (Easthampstead Park, 05/06/2013) was addressed by Alan Brine, OfStEd National Lead for RE who thoroughly surveyed current issues in RE and stimulated much dialogue among delegates as to possible ways of meeting national developments. Delegates proposed a most significant idea which would involve developing a cohort of student faith ambassadors to go into schools to present knowledge about the major religions and to discuss faith issues. Jo Fageant is working on this idea and will present suggested plans to SACREs in the autumn.

The RE Council's recent report highlights the many challenges to the teaching of RE that are emerging in the face of the many changes being made in education by the Government. The Wokingham SACRE will be in the forefront of tracking these developments, utilising the knowledge and expertise of NASACRE and the REC in order to confidently meet the challenges ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Freeman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Freeman
Chair of the Wokingham SACRE

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Again, this year saw a stable membership although there remain 3 vacancies for representatives from Buddhism, VOICE and Roman Catholicism.

The world of education has seen much change this year and the RE community has needed resilience and energy to keep abreast of proposed developments , particularly at secondary level where RE has suffered inadvertent consequences following eg the decision not to include RE in the English Baccalaureate. Places for trainee teachers wishing to specialise in RE have been cut and RE was not included in the review of the National Curriculum. However, the 2012 Ofsted inspection framework has a renewed emphasis on SMSC (Spiritual, Moral and Social development), to which RE can be a key contributor.

Against this backdrop, the Wokingham SACRE has made every effort to progress its development plan and to seek innovative ways of consolidating its effectiveness and ensuring the high quality of the teaching of and learning in Religious Education in Wokingham schools.

The SACRE's primary task this year has been to review the agreed syllabus, make amendments and publish the new syllabus. The new pan-Berkshire syllabus was launched at a joint conference for Reading and Wokingham teachers in June 2012. The 2012-13 development plan focuses on supporting schools to fully implement the new syllabus.

The SACRE continues, even in a challenging financial climate, to be afforded ongoing support from Wokingham Borough Council through personnel and funding, and has stayed fast to its belief that RE is a vital dimension of children and young people's educational experience and personal development.

The SACRE continues, also, to reflect on its own effectiveness and practice and is eager to continue to strengthen the relationship it has with schools and teachers of RE.

During the year, SACRE's development plan has been discussed and tied closely to objectives and budget requirements.

The SACRE was represented at the NASACRE Conference in May by the Chairman, Jo Fageant (who is now the NASACRE Secretary) and Jan Lever, who reported back to the SACRE. The conference set out the current context RE sits in, the challenges for the RE community in order to keep moving RE learning forward, and the positive steps being taken to hold RE firmly in the curriculum, to raise its profile and to sustain progress.

In the Autumn term the Adviser to SACRE attended the South East NASACRE Conference in Harrow on behalf of the SACRE and reported back.

The membership of SACRE can be seen at Appendix A.

1.2 Meetings

Four meetings were held during the reporting year, one more than usual to enable the new agreed syllabus to be endorsed before sending it to the Council for ratification.

6 February 2012

26 April 2012

11 June 2012

12 November 2012

Meetings were held at the Oakwood Centre, Woodley and the Methodist Church, Rose Street..

Attendance record is found in Appendix B

1.3 Developments in the SACRE

Michael Freeman continued to do sterling work as the Chair, and continues to do so after re-election to this position in November 2011. Cllr Beth Rowland was re-elected as Vice Chair at the same meeting. Anne Coffey has established herself rapidly as a most efficient and reliable Clerk.

The SACRE Development Plan for 2011 – 2012 can be seen at Appendix C.

2 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2.1 The locally agreed syllabus for religious education

The 2011-12 academic year saw the agreed syllabus review process, necessary every fifth year, come to fruition in the launch of the new syllabus at a joint Reading/Wokingham conference in June.

The review was more than ably led by Jo Fageant, Diocesan adviser, who patiently and tenaciously brought together the 6 LAs and SACREs to produce the pan-Berkshire syllabus.

Jo offered comprehensive progress updates at each SACRE meeting and members have been involved from the beginning.

One of the most significant developments with this new syllabus has been the involvement of the faith communities in writing additions to their respective sections of the syllabus, making it more detailed and helpful for teachers.

The revised syllabus is a slimmer document than the previous one, the “content” being arranged under three columns headed “Believing, Behaving, Belonging” reflecting the centrality of beliefs and their application to life and affect on it.

Key questions have been strengthened in order to promote critical evaluative thinking, and Attainment Targets 1 and 2 are upheld, an enquiry-based learning model being recommended to facilitate the planning process.

2.2 Standards in religious education

2.2.1 Changes in the Ofsted Inspection Framework made it almost impossible to glean any meaningful information from them regarding RE unless they were specific subject inspections.

It is hoped that the renewed focus on SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development) opportunities in the latest Ofsted inspection framework, will support the monitoring process. However, the SACRE is of the mind that increasing its contact with schools and teachers and thus enhancing relationships with them, will form the basis of the Development Plans and provide a means of further understanding the situation regarding RE in Wokingham schools, as well as how best the SACRE can support its continued improvement.

2.2.2 Examination results

In the current climate it has proved difficult to attain the Borough’s examination results in Religious Studies without asking individual schools to provide these. The secondary heads of RE meet at a network meeting termly and it is hoped to gain feedback and information from them regarding their schools’ results and to add these to the report if they are in agreement.

2.2.3 GCSE examination results

Subject : Religious Studies ; Exam : GCSE Full Course

Centre	NOR	NOE	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Q	U	X	A*-C	A*-G	QCA Av Pts
Bulmershe, The	156	119	0.8	6.7	16.0	21.8	13.4	16.8	16.8	4.2		3.4		45.4	96.6	33.7
Forest, The	196	2				100.0								100.0	100.0	40.0
Maiden Erlegh	275	20	40.0	15.0	35.0	10.0								100.0	100.0	51.1
Piggott CE, The	179	138	10.9	23.2	24.6	18.8	15.2	5.1	2.2					77.5	100.0	44.3
St Crispin's	178	160	5.0	21.3	25.0	19.4	7.5	10.0	5.6	5.0		1.3		70.6	98.8	40.6
Waingels College	217	196	12.2	25.0	20.4	17.9	8.2	7.7	4.6	2.6		1.5		75.5	98.5	43.0
		635	8.8	19.8	22.0	19.2	10.2	9.1	6.5	2.8		1.4		69.9	98.6	41.2

2.2.4 A Level examination results

Wokingham Borough Council has provided the following provisional data:

43 students entered A level Religious Studies in 2012 i.e. 43 students from the 852 A level students across 8 schools: Maiden Erlegh, Forest, Emmbrook, St Crispin’s, Piggott, The Holt, Waingels, Bulmershe

This means 5% of students took A level RE.

Entries were up by 8 students from 2011 (35) and almost the same as in 2010 (45).

The following table shows grades but please note these do not map against A level grades, but cohorts of young people. Grades 1-3 are the top 25% nationally, whereas grades 7-9 denote poor performance. (ALPS provisional summary)

Provider	2010			2011			2012		
	Entries	Value Added Score	Grade	Entries	Value Added Score	Grade	Entries	Value Added Score	Grade
Maiden Erlegh	20	1.01	4	17	1	5	26	1.01	4
St Crispin's School	5	1.08	3	8	1.1	2	12	1.09	3
The Holt School	14	1.12	2	5	0.9	6	0	0	0
Waingel's College	0	0	0	2	1.14	2	3	0.95	6
Bulmershe School	6	0.88	7	3	1.09	3	2	1.14	2
Student totals	45			35			43		

	Students
Maiden Erlegh	180
Forest School	88
Emmbrook	80
St Crispin's School	79
Piggot CS School	125
The Holt School	121
Waingel's College	106
Bulmershe School	73
Student totals	852

2.3 Methods of teaching religious education

The SACRE has not been involved during this year specifically in reviewing or advising on methods of teaching but the revised syllabus recommends an enquiry-based learning model and training on this will follow through RE networks, and through the production of teaching resources.

2.4 Teaching Materials

2.4.1 The Wokingham RE Trail was published and sent into schools in the previous year but little feedback was received leading to the belief that few had participated in it.

The Autumn term 2012 network meeting saw Helen Currie, author of the RE Trail, refreshing teachers on the resource and encouraging them to make use of it to help implementation of the new syllabus.

Having seen a teaching resource produced for Bournemouth and Poole in 2011, Wokingham teachers showed great interest in having this set of medium-term planning adapted in line with the pan-Berkshire agreed syllabus. This has been completed and a launch event planned for November 2012. Schools have the option of buying in this resource, with training if required, to support their planning and implementation process. See www.discoveryschemeofwork.com and click on. 25 Wokingham primary schools are currently making use of Discovery to structure their RE and help them to translate the agreed syllabus into a Scheme of Learning for their children and context.

2.5 Continuing Professional Development

A termly RE newsletter continues to be sent to schools to support them in keeping up to date with local and national issues in the world of RE, and promoting online resources and training opportunities.

Teachers of RE in Wokingham have had access during the year to courses offered to by the Oxford Diocese. Regional seminars on topics selected by hosting schools have also been available.

Termly networks meetings started in May 2012, just ahead of the agreed syllabus launch and as a means of consulting face-to-face with teachers regarding the proposed changes to the existing syllabus.

The SACRE wishes to thank the schools who have so generously hosted these networks, making them cost-effective and allowing colleagues the opportunities to experience each others' schools.

These network meetings for secondary RE teachers have been well-received and continue to strengthen the peer-support between RE subject leaders across Wokingham and Reading.

Similar termly networks for Primary RE subject leaders, each with a theme as a focus, have been exceptionally well-attended, showing great commitment from teachers to do their best to make the new syllabus enhance children's RE learning, and to support their colleagues to do the same. This is especially commendable in a climate of careful consideration being needed regarding "after hours" work and ever-pressurised curriculum time.

2.6 Complaints concerning RE

No complaints concerning RE have been received by the SACRE.

3 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

3.1 Monitoring

With the advent of the new Ofsted Inspection Framework it has become increasingly difficult for the SACRE to monitor collective worship.

3.2 Determinations

None of the schools in the Wokingham Borough has had a determination in the past. Given the character of the area this situation looked unlikely to change within the foreseeable future. Accordingly, no application has been received or considered by the SACRE.

3.3 Complaints concerning collective worship

No complaints have been received by the SACRE concerning collective worship.

4 LINKS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

4.1 The SACRE is affiliated to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and one of its Church of England representatives continues as elected National Executive member.

4.2 The SACRE has received and considered articles and papers about RE and collective worship, along with feedback from NASACRE conferences, in order to remain well informed about both areas.

4.3 One of the Church of England representatives is a member of the Association of RE Advisers, Inspectors and Consultants, works for the Anglican Diocese of Oxford and also supports a number of SACREs. The professional adviser to SACRE is also a member of AREIAC and involved in national RE development projects as well as working with other SACREs. These links enable the SACRE to receive up to date information on a range of relevant issues.

4.4 The SACRE is always eager to continue to build its relationship with faith communities and their places of worship in order to support schools in enhancing RE with visits and visitors.

5 SACRE ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 Professional and administrative support

5.1.1 The clerk to the SACRE is Anne Coffey.

5.1.2 The SACRE has good support from the Borough, initially from the Senior Adviser, Hayley Davies-Edwards, and currently from Consultant, Emily Waddilove, also from Wokingham Borough. Jan Lever, independent consultant continues to be contracted as the professional adviser.

5.2 Finance

The budget for 2011 – 2012 was set at £8000, to enable the completion of the agreed syllabus, the launch event, termly networks and consultant time to lead these.

APPENDIX A

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is established in accordance with Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 by Wokingham Borough Council acting as local education authority.

1 MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

The members of the SACRE shall be appointed by the Authority so that they shall represent the following groups:

Group A	Christian denominations and other religions	
	The Free Churches	2
	The Roman Catholic Church	2
	Hinduism	1
	Islam	1
	Judaism	1
	Sikhism	1
	Buddhism	1
Group B	The Church of England	3
Group C	Associations representing teachers	
	NUT	1
	NAS/UWT	1
	ATL	1
	PAT	1
	NAHT	1
	ASCL (formerly SHA)	1
Group D	The Authority	2
Total		20

In addition, the SACRE may determine to co-opt non-voting additional members to aid it in its work and for specific time-limited projects.

2 TERM OF OFFICE

(i) Members of the SACRE shall serve from the date of their appointment until their successors are appointed by the Authority. They shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(ii) Any member who falls to attend three consecutive ordinary meetings of the SACRE other than for a reason approved by the SACRE shall cease to be a member.

(iii) The validity of the proceedings of the SACRE, or of any of its representative groups, shall not be affected by a vacancy in the membership or on the ground that a member does not at the time represent the denomination, religion or association he or she was appointed to represent.

3 DUTIES AND POWERS

(i) The SACRE shall advise the Authority on such matters connected with religious worship in community schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the Authority may refer to it or as it may see fit.

(ii) The SACRE shall in particular advise on methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.

(iii) The SACRE shall, on an application made by a headteacher of any community school after consultation with the governing body, consider whether it is appropriate for the requirement for Christian collective worship to apply in the case of that school, or in the case of any class or description of pupils at that school. The SACRE shall arrive at its decision and communicate it to the headteacher in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of Schedule 20 of The Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998.

(iv) The representative groups on the SACRE, other than that representing the Authority, may at any time require a review of any Agreed Syllabus for the time being adopted by the Authority.

(v) The SACRE shall each year publish a report on its proceedings and those of its representative groups. The report shall specify any matters on which the SACRE has given advice to the Authority and the reasons for offering the advice.

(vi) The SACRE shall take any action assigned to it by the Authority in relation to the consideration and disposal of any complaint concerning collective worship or religious education in compliance with Section 23 of the Education Reform Act 1988.

4 PROCEDURE

(i) The SACRE shall elect annually at its first meeting in the academic year a Chairman and a Vice Chairman from among its members by voting in accordance with clause 4 (ii).

(ii) On any question to be decided by the SACRE only the representative groups shall be entitled to vote, and each group shall have a single vote.

(iii) The SACRE shall regulate its own proceedings and may establish committees for specified purposes. Such committees may include persons who are not themselves members of the SACRE. In any matter which falls to be decided by the members of any particular category, the members of that category may regulate their own proceedings.

(iv) The SACRE shall determine the frequency of its own meetings so long as it meets on no fewer than three occasions in any academic year.

(v) The Clerk to the SACRE shall be the Corporate Head of Children's Services (Education) of the Authority or his/her representative.

(vi) The Corporate Head of Children's Services (Education) or his representative(s) shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the SACRE and of any committees it may establish and to speak but not to vote.

(vii) The costs of operating the SACRE and any committees it may establish shall be met by the Authority.

Membership 2012

Group A

Free Churches

Catherine Jinkerson /Laura Patterson
Christine Morgan

Roman Catholic Church

Kathy Turner
[Vacancy](#)

Hinduism

Anju Sharma

Islam

Shahid Younis

Judaism

Dr Shira Lewin Solomons

Sikhism

Hardeep Singh Sahota/Sukhdev Bansal

Buddhism

[Vacancy](#)

Group B The Church of England

Rev Lisa Cornwell
Jo Fageant
Rev Stanton-Saringer

Group C Associations representing teachers

NUT

Kevin Price

NAS/UWT

Sue Cresswell

ATL

Michael Freeman (Chair)

Voice (PAT)

[Vacancy](#)

NAHT

Lesley Green

ASCL

Hilary Winter *

Group D The Authority

Cllr Kate Haines

Cllr Beth Rowland (Vice-chair)

APPENDIX B

Wokingham SACRE Attendance 2012

Name	6 Feb 2012	26 April 2012	11 June 2012	12 Nov 2012
Group A				
H Singh Sahota (Sikhism) Sukhdev Bansal (from Autumn)	N	N	N	N
Dr S L Solomons (Judaism)	Y	Y	N	Y
C. Morgan (Free Churches)	Y	Y	N	Y
A Sharma (Hinduism)	Y	Y	Y	Y
K Turner (Roman Catholic)	Y	N	Y	Y
S Younis (Islam)	Y	Y	Y	N
Group B				
J Fageant	Y	Y	N	Y
Rev Stanton-Saringer	Y	N	Y	Y
Rev L Cornwell	Y	Y	Y	Y
Group C				
S Cresswell (NAS/UWT)	Y	Y	Y	Y
M Freeman (ATL)	Y	Y	Y	Y
H Winter (ASCL)	Y	Y	Y	N
K Price (NUT)	N	N	N	Y
Lesley Green (NAHT)	Y	Y	N	Y
Group D				
Cllr K Haines	Y	N	N	N
Cllr E Rowland	Y	N	N	Y
WBC Officers				
A Coffey	Y	Y	Y	Y
J Lever	Y	Y	Y	Y

APPENDIX C

Wokingham SACRE Development Plan 2012-13

Aim	Actions	Timescales	People Responsible	Cost	Progress
A) To be a supportive and proactive SACRE enjoying full and well-informed membership.	1. Fill membership vacancies	End December 2012	SACRE Chair Committee Services		Welcome to Sukhdev Bansal, Catherine Jinkerson and co-opted Daniel Thompson All meetings held
	2. SACRE members attend termly SACRE meetings (3 per year) and, when possible, teacher termly network meetings and training events	Termly SACRE meetings Termly teacher network meetings Occasional training events	SACRE Chair/SACRE Adviser SACRE members SACRE Clerk	SACRE Adviser to prepare and attend x3 SACRE meetings a year @ £500 per term =£1500 SACRE Clerk to administer each meeting £700 Venue costs: £450 Oxford Diocese updates £50 x3 =£150 (shared with other SACREs)	
	3. Produce annual SACRE Report	Autumn Term 2013	SACRE Adviser and clerk	SACRE Adviser x1 day @£500	Written in draft form December 2012
	4. Review the development plan at each meeting and update for next year	At each SACRE meeting	SACRE Adviser and SACRE	SACRE Adviser time included in A2 above	Development plan action points are being progressed
	5. ~Subscribe to NASACRE ~ Representation at annual NASACRE conference, NASACRE AGM and local SACRE events including the annual pan-Berkshire SACRE conference	Ongoing	SACRE members SACRE Adviser to organise Jo Fageant re pan-Berks event/s	Subscription £90 Conference/s and AGM budget £500 SACRE Adviser time if needs to be the SACRE representative x1 day shared with Reading £250	SACRE subscription renewed
	6. Members to present aspects of	At selected SACRE meetings	SACRE members. Decide plan at SACRE		This item to start 2013

	their faith/beliefs to SACRE to inform members		meetings: Chair		
B. To support teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in their schools	<p>1. Provide a termly Primary RE network meeting, 4-5.30, hosted by a school RE teachers and SACRE members to be invited</p> <p>2. Provide, jointly with Reading SACRE, a termly secondary RE network meeting, 4-5.30, hosted by a school. RE teachers and SACRE members to be invited</p>	<p>Once a term (3 per year) Spring 2013: 30 January, Nine Mile Ride Hosted by schools</p> <p>Once a term (3 per year) Spring 2013: 6 March, Forest Hosted by schools</p>	<p>SACRE Adviser to plan, invite schools, administer, deliver and follow up x 3 networks a year.</p> <p>SACRE to plan etc in liaison with Secondary Federation manager/LA</p>	<p>SACRE Adviser x1.5 days @ £500 = £750</p> <p>SACRE Adviser x1.5 days @ £500 = £750. Cost shared with Reading so Wokingham contributes £375</p>	<p>The 3 primary network meetings took place and were very attended, averaging 20 teachers and sometimes 1 or 2 SACRE members These to continue 2013-14</p> <p>The 3 secondary network meetings took place and were also well attended . These to continue 2013-14</p>
B) To support the implementation of the revised Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for RE	<p>3. Provide a termly RE e.newsletter</p> <p>1. Provide schools with a list of speakers from faith/belief communities for RE lessons</p> <p>2. Organise trips for teachers to places of worship to support planning and teaching</p>	<p>Publish in the half-term when the network meetings don't happen</p> <p>Summer Term 2013</p> <p>Summer terms 2013</p>	<p>Jo Fageant to produce</p> <p>SACRE Chair and SACRE members SACRE Adviser</p>	<p>£250 for JEF's time (shared with other SACREs)</p> <p>SACRE Adviser x6 days @ £500, but cost shared with Reading so Wokingham contributes £1500</p>	<p>?</p> <p>This action is to be undertaken starting in January 2013 and the directory to be launched June 2013.</p> <p>The funding left after the launch conference (£1391) could subsidise such training and in turn these teachers could contribute to the Directory of speakers</p>

	<p>(CPD)</p> <p>3. Liaise with local places of worship re children's visits, appropriate to agreed syllabus</p> <p>4. Complete the appendix for the agreed syllabus on Humanism</p> <p>5. Add teaching materials to SACRE website/s across Berkshire and enable teacher and SACRE access</p>	<p>Spring/Summer terms 2013</p> <p>Completion by July 2013</p> <p>ongoing</p>	<p>Co-opted Humanism representative on SACRE with Reading SACRE Humanist rep in liaison with JEF and JL</p> <p>JL, teacher networks and JEF</p>	<p>Add to website so no cost</p>	<p>and places..</p> <p>Work to commence January 2013 with the co-option of Daniel Thompson who will work with other Humanists (e.g. on Reading SACRE) to complete the Humanist appendix by June 2013</p> <p>New Wokingham website will afford the opportunity to audit current materials and documents on there, sift them and add new materials as they are generated and shared by teachers (through the network meetings etc)</p>
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