

All Members of the Reading Standing
Advisory Council on Religious Education

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NOTICE OF MEETING - READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION -
4 FEBRUARY 2010

A meeting of the Reading SACRE will be held on **Thursday 4 February 2010 at 6.30 pm in
Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Reading.**

The Agenda for the meeting is set out below.

AGENDA

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2009	1
3. SACRE CONSTITUTION	6
To discuss the SACRE Constitution.	
4. SACRE BUDGET	Verbal Report
To discuss the budget/financial position of the SACRE.	
5. YOUTH SACRE/ONE DAY CONFERENCE	Verbal Report
To discuss the possibility of setting up a Youth SACRE and the outcome of the planning meeting that considered the possibility of holding a one day conference for pupils in the Borough who are studying Religious Education.	

6. TIME OF SACRE MEETINGS

Verbal Report

To discuss the time at which meetings of SACRE should be held.

7. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS - TBC

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Present:

Maureen Meatcher	RC Diocese of Portsmouth (Group A)
Mustafa Chaudhary (in the Chair)	Islam (Group A)
Kelsang Loten	Buddhism (Group A)
Vera Bodman	NUT (Group C)

Also in Attendance:

David McKnight	Berkshire Humanists
Jo Fageant	RE Adviser
Alfie Hay	Reading Borough Council
Richard Woodford	Reading Borough Council

Apologies:

Maya Malhotra	Hindu Faith (Group A)
Rabbi Zvi Solomons	Jewish Faith (Group A) - Nominee
Mary Harwood (Chair)	Church of England (Group B)
Margaret Elcock	Church of England (Group B)
June Hardcastle	Church of England (Group B) - Nominee
Bernard Eggleton	NASUWT (Group C)
Beryl Smart	PAT (Group C)
Maria Soulsby	Headteacher, New Christ Church (Group C) - Nominee
Councillor Ballsdon	Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Councillor Khan	Reading Borough Council (Group D)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

AGREED: That Mustafa Chaudhary be appointed as Chair for the meeting.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to it being noted that the Interfaith Forum DVD was the property of the SACRE.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 4 of the meeting held on 2 July 2009, SACRE Open Day, Alfie Hay informed the SACRE that a venue had not been confirmed for the SACRE Open Day that was due to take place on Thursday 19 November 2009. Mustafa Chaudhary stated that he would investigate whether or not the Open Day would take place.

Further to Minute 5 of the meeting held on 2 July 2009, SACRE Tasks, the SACRE discussed the proposal that money could be requested to buy 'RE Today' for schools and it was suggested that Headteachers should be contacted to see if they would be interested in meeting 50% of the cost. The SACRE also discussed the

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advantages and disadvantages of having a fixed or open ended budget allocated for its use.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That Mustafa Chaudhary seek confirmation as to whether or not the SACRE Open Day would take place on 19 November 2009.

4. YOUTH SACRE

Further to Minute 2 of the meeting held on 28 January 2009, Matters Arising - setting up a Youth SACRE, five year ten pupils from Highdown School who were studying the Religious Education GCSE long course attended the meeting and in response to questions from the SACRE they raised a number of points including the following:

- The year ten pupils had a one hour Religious Education (RE) lesson that took place once a week and were currently studying animal rights and how different religions treated animals;
- Teaching was predominantly on specific tasks/subjects and was text book based;
- The pupils enjoyed learning about what others thought and about different beliefs;
- The pupils expressed an interest in having outside speakers attending their lessons and in visiting places of worship in order to gain a practical insight into what they were studying and it was suggested that they made a note over the coming months as to what speakers they would like to attend their lessons and things that could be done to improve their learning and understanding of the subject;
- All the pupils had to sit the GCSE exam although they did not consider RE to be a subject that was needed as much as others and would probably not have taken the exam if they had been given a choice.

The SACRE discussed the comments that had been raised by the pupils and a number of points were raised including the following:

- It was suggested that a one day conference or event could be held for pupils in the Borough who were studying RE to share experience and to engage with people of different faiths. However, it was acknowledged that there would be significant costs involved in arranging such an event;
- The conference could be themed around a subject young people would be keen to debate and representatives from different faiths could attend to provide their perspective and views;

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- It was also suggested that the SACRE could explain the benefits to pupils of studying RE, such as gaining greater empathy towards people of different faiths, and that work should be carried out to promote a more positive attitude towards the subject;
- If a conference for year ten pupils was to be held in June/July 2010 it was acknowledged that planning would need to start before Christmas 2009, it was therefore suggested that a planning meeting should be held before the end of 2009.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That year ten pupils from Highdown School be thanked for attending the meeting of SACRE;
- (3) That a planning meeting for a one day conference for pupils in the Borough who were studying RE be held between 4.30 pm and 6.00 pm on Tuesday 8 December 2009 at the Shantideva Buddhist Centre in Bath Road.

5. SACRE CONSTITUTION

Further to Minute 8 of the meeting held on 2 July 2009, Other Business - Constitution of SACRE, a copy of the SACRE Constitution was submitted to the meeting.

The SACRE discussed the Constitution and in particular the procedure for appointing members to represent each faith group and it was suggested that representatives be appointed for a given length of time and that their continued appointment be confirmed by the bodies they represented.

Jo Fageant stated that she could provide the SACRE with a copy of the Constitution of the Oxfordshire SACRE for comparison and it was agreed that the discussion should continue at the next meeting when it was hoped that more members of the SACRE would be present.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That the SACRE Constitution be discussed at the meeting to be held on 4 February 2010.

6. DRAFT ANNUAL SACRE REPORT FOR 2008 - 2009

Jo Fageant submitted the draft Annual SACRE Report for the academic year 2008-2009.

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The SACRE discussed the draft Annual Report and some suggestions and amendments were made including the following:

- That under the heading Finance, at 5.2 in the draft report, a statement be made to the effect that 'School Improvement continued to finance projects that were suggested by the SACRE';
- It was suggested that the children's art work that had been used for the agreed syllabus should be used on the front cover of the Annual Report;
- Alfie Hay agreed to contact the Communications Department with regard to writing a press release to coincide with the publication of the Annual Report.

AGREED:

- (1) That Jo Fageant be thanked for her work on the Annual Report;
- (2) That the draft Annual Report 2008-2009 be approved subject to the document being updated with the amendments suggested by the SACRE;
- (3) That the Communications Department be contacted by Alfie Hay with the aim of producing a press release to coincide with the publication of the Annual Report.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

NASACRE Training

Richard Woodford informed the SACRE that he had been contacted by Majorie Crombie, Recruitment Officer NASACRE, who had told him that the NASACRE had arranged two training days for new SACRE members, on 20 January and 23 March 2010, in central London. Each day would commence at 9.30 am for a 10.00 am start and would finish at 3.30 pm, lunch would be provided and travelling expenses would be reimbursed. New members of the SACRE who were interested in attending the training were told to contact Majorie by email.

National Interfaith Week

The SACRE noted that National Interfaith Week would take place during the week 15 to 21 November 2009 and it was suggested that the meeting of SACRE in the 2010-2011 Municipal Year should take place during Interfaith Week.

Day time meetings of SACRE

It was suggested that the practicalities of holding meetings during the day should be discussed at the next meeting of SACRE.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;

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- (2) That new members of SACRE who were interested in attending the NASACRE training days contact Majorie Crombie by email at majoriecrombie@hotmail.com;
- (3) That a meeting of SACRE be held during Interfaith Week in 2010;
- (4) That the practicalities of holding meetings during the daytime be discussed at the 4 February 2010 meeting of SACRE.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED:

That the next meeting be held at 6.30 pm on Thursday 4 February 2010.

(The meeting started at 2.08 pm finished at 3.55 pm)

**READING BOROUGH COUNCIL STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)**

CONSTITUTION

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is established in accordance with Section 11 of the Education Reform Act 1988.

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

Free Churches	1
Roman Catholic Church	1
Budhism	1
Hinduism	1
Islam	2
Judaism	1
Sikhism	1

Group B The Church of England 4

Group C Associations representing teachers

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers	1
The National Association of Headteachers	1
The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers	1
The National Union of Teachers	1
The Secondary Headteachers Association	1

Group D The Authority 5

- Grant Maintained Schools (non-voting) 1
- Co-opted members (non-voting) 2

TERMS 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 fails 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 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.

2 DUTIES AND POWERS

- (i) The SACRE shall advise the Authority on such matters connected with religious worship in Borough 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 Borough school after consultation with the governing body, consider whether it is appropriate for the requirement for Christian collective worship to apply in 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 12 of The Education Reform Act 1988.
- (iv) The representative groups on the SACRE, other than that representing the Authority, may at any time require a review on 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 municipal year, a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from among its members by voting in accordance with clause (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 member 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 no fewer than two occasions in any academic year.
- (v) The Clerk to the SACRE shall be the Chief Education Officer of the Authority or his representative.
- (vi) The Chief Education Officer 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.