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9 November 2010

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Richard Woodford- Committee Services

NOTICE OF MEETING - READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 17 NOVEMBER 2010

A meeting of the Reading SACRE will be held on Wednesday 17 November 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	
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3.	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES	
4.	SACRE CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP	6
	To consider the Draft Decision Book Reports to amend the SACRE Constitution and update membership of the SACRE.	
5.	INTERFAITH GROUP REPORT ON SOCIAL INCLUSION	Report to be tabled

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6.	HOW CAN SACRE BEST SUPPORT SCHOOLS	Verbal Report
	Verbal report to provide feedback from the 10 November 2010 meeting with teachers.	
7.	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS 2010	15
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	To review the Draft Annual SACRE Report for 2009 - 2010.	
9.	OFSTED REPORT - TRANSFORMING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	25
	To consider the Ofsted report - Transforming Religious Education.	
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10.	DRAFT SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN	29
	To consider the Draft Development Plan.	
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	Verbal report to consider the agreed syllabus review.	
12.	HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY	Verbal Report
	Verbal report on Holocaust Memorial Day that will be taking place on 27 January 2011.	
13.	CHANUKAH LIGHTING IN MAYOR'S PARLOUR	Verbal Report
	Verbal report on Chanukah Lighting that will be taking place on 1 December 2010 at 3.30 pm in the Mayor's Parlour.	
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	To consider allocating items to the SACRE Future Work Programme for future meetings.	
15.	DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:	
	Thursday 3 February 2011	

Present:

Mustafa Chaudhary Islam (Group A)

Rabbi Zvi Solomons Jewish Faith (Group A) - Nominee Margaret Elcock Church of England (Group B)

Jo Fageant Church of England (Group B) - Nominee

Bernard Eggleton NASUWT (Group C)

Maria Soulsby Headteacher, New Christ Church (Group C) -

Nominee

Councillor Ballsdon Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Councillor C Harris Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Councillor Janjua Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Councillor Livingston Reading Borough Council (Group D)

Also in Attendance:

David McKnight Berkshire Humanists Munawar Karim Deenway School

Anthony Warren Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Beverley Heslin Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
David Jones Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Richard Woodford Reading Borough Council

Apologies:

Maureen Meatcher RC Diocese of Portsmouth (Group A)

Kelsang Loten Buddhism (Group A) Maya Malhotra Buddhism (Group A)

June Hardcastle Church of England (Group B) - Nominee

Vera Bodman NUT (Group C)
Beryl Smart PAT (Group C)

Councillor Eden Reading Borough Council (Group D)

Alfie Hay Reading Borough Council

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Rabbi Zvi Solomons was elected as Chair of the SACRE for the Municipal Year 2010/2011.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Mustafa Chaudhary was elected as Vice-Chair of the SACRE for the Municipal Year 2010/2011.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the correct spelling of Munawar Karim's name being noted.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 2 of the last meeting, Matters Arising, it was reported that the Open Day that had taken place on 12 March 2010 at Deenway School had been a success.

Further to Minute 4 of the last meeting, SACRE Budget, it was reported that Alfie Hay had spoken to Kim Bergamasco, Head of School Improvement and Inclusion, regarding the SACRE Budget. The SACRE discussed the setting of a budget and agreed that work should be carried out to identify tasks the SACRE wanted to carry out in 2010/11 and the costs associated with the tasks should be calculated in order to build a budget figure. Jo Fageant informed the SACRE that in July 2011 an Agreed Syllabus Conference would need to be set up in order to review the locally Agreed Syllabus and that this would have a cost implication that would need to be included in the budget. Councillor Ballsdon agreed that she would confirm how much had been allocated to the SACRE budget for 2010/11 with the authority.

Further to Minute 5 of the last meeting, Youth SACRE/One Day Conference, it was suggested that a representative from the SACRE attend a meeting of the Youth Cabinet in order to take the matter forward and to seek their views on the possibility of holding a one day conference. The need to be very clear about what the SACRE was trying to achieve and to consult with schools was acknowledged. The SACRE agreed that the item should be taken forward by the Sub-Group, that had been established at the last meeting, and that the Sub-Group should send letters to all schools in the Borough asking for ideas and for people to contribute. The Sub-Group should also investigate the costs that would be involved with setting up a one day SACRE youth conference and submit a report on their findings to the next meeting.

Further to Minute 7 of the last meeting, Other Business, SACRE Newsletter, Jo Fageant informed the SACRE that it would cost £100/£150 per term to produce a newsletter excluding the costs of printing and delivery. The SACRE agreed that the production of a newsletter should go ahead and that the first one should be produced in the autumn term 2010.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That Mustafa Choudhary carry out work to identify budget costings, including costs associated with the Agreed Syllabus Conference, and submit the results to the next meeting of the SACRE;
- (3) That Councillor Ballsdon confirm how much had been allocated to the SACRE budget for 2010/11 with the authority;
- (4) That the sub-group investigate the costs that would be involved with a one day SACRE youth conference, obtain feedback from schools and submit a report on their findings to the next meeting of the SACRE;

(5) That a SACRE Newsletter be produced starting in the autumn term 2010.

5. OFSTED REPORT ON TRANSFORMING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS AND HOW SACRES SHOULD BE INVOLVED

AGREED:

That a copy of the Ofsted report on Transforming Religious Education in schools 2006-09 be sent to all members of the SACRE and considered at the next meeting of the SACRE.

6. BERKSHIRE CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TRAILS

The Chair reported on the recent Berkshire Conference on Religious Education Trails and presented a rough draft of the Trail that had been put together for Reading. The SACRE discussed the Trail and the Chair requested that additional information that could be included should be sent to him. Jo Fageant and Munawar Karim indicated that they would like to be involved with producing a RE Trail for Reading.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That additional information that could be included in the Reading RE Trail be sent to the Chair.

7. DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The SACRE considered the Development Plan.

The SACRE discussed the Development Plan and a number of points were raised including the following:

- Jo Fageant informed the SACRE that as she was no longer consultant to the SACRE her name should be removed from the Development Plan;
- The Annual Report on the work of the SACRE would need to be produced by the next meeting;
- That SACRE agreed that a Future Work Programme setting out agenda items for future meetings should be set up;
- The SACRE agreed that the Development Plan needed to be updated and include the actions that had been agreed at the current and recent meetings;
- The SACRE agreed that the updated Development Plan should form the basis of the budget calculations;

• It was suggested that a survey on collective worship could be put together and distributed at a future meeting of the Faith Forum.

Finally, the Chair suggested that he, Jo Fageant and Jan Lever, the new clerk to the SACRE who would be replacing Alfie Hay, should re-write the Development Plan and submit the updated version to the next meeting of the SACRE.

AGREED:

- (1) That the Development Plan be noted;
- (2) That the SACRE Annual Report be submitted to the next meeting of the SACRE:
- (3) That a Future Work Programme setting out agenda items for future meetings be set up;
- (4) That the Chair, Jo Fageant and Jan Lever re-write the Development Plan and submit the updated version to the next meeting of the SACARE.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

a) Joint SACREs Conference

Jo Fageant reported that the Joint SACREs Conference that had taken place on 15 June 2010 at Easthampstead Park had been poorly attended and asked whether or not the conference should continue to be held as the conference was funded by the SACREs that took part, including the Reading SACRE.

Jo informed that SACRE that she had produced an evaluation sheet for the Joint SACREs Conference and instead of asking individual delegates to evaluate the conference they had been asked to take the sheet back to their next SACRE meeting and get the SACRE as a whole to provide feedback about the conference and on some important questions on related matters.

The SACRE discussed the evaluation sheet and a number of points were raised in response to some of the questions including the following:

What actions has your SACRE taken as a result of issues and challenges raised at this and previous Joint SACRE Conferences?

Jo informed the SACRE that there was no indication that any of the challenges that had been raised at past conferences had been included on the agendas of any of the SACREs that had taken part.

The review of the locally agreed syllabus for which each SACRE should establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) by the summer of 2011. West Berkshire SACRE/ASC is willing to take the lead as it did in 2005/06.

The costs that would be involved with the production of the syllabus would need to be calculated and the SACRE would need to ascertain whether or not the syllabus

had been successful and if the support material was relevant to Reading as research had shown that the support material provided made a significant difference to the successful delivery of a syllabus. The SACRE agreed that when the new syllabus was delivered they would have a role to play in supporting and training teachers in its implementation, if a need for training was identified.

A training opportunity on RE in special schools. Wokingham might be able to take the lead.

No training had been offered to teachers in special schools with regard to the implementation of the RE syllabus in special schools and it was agreed that training could be offered in partnership with the six other local authorities that had been involved in producing the Agreed Syllabus.

b) Friendship Walk

David McKnight informed the SACRE that the Reading Interfaith Group and Reading Faith Forum Friendship Walk would take place on Sunday 12 September 2010 starting at 2.30 pm from the Bandstand in Forbury Gardens. It was suggested that information about the walk could be sent to schools in the schools bulletin.

c) Alfie Hay

The SACRE recorded its thanks to Alfie Hay, who was retiring from the authority, for all his work over the years in supporting the SACRE.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That Alfie Hay be thanked for his work in supporting the SACRE.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

AGEED: That the next meeting be held at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 17 November 2010.

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 8.30 pm)

AGENDA ITEM: 4

DRAFT

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

LEAD

COUNCILLOR: COUNCILLOR RALPH

DATE:

TITLE: CONSTITUTION OF THE READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL

FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

SERVICE: EDUCATION AND WARDS: BOROUGHWIDE

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

AUTHOR: JAN LEVER TEL: (0118) 937 4974

JOB TITLE: PSHE EDUCATION E-MAIL: Jan.lever@reading.gov.uk

CURRICULUM CONSULTANT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report sets out the decision to amend the constitution of the Reading Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

2. DECISION

2.1 It is the decision of the Director of Education and Children's Services, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Education and Children's Services, that the constitution of the Reading SACRE be amended as detailed in paragraph 4.1 below.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The SACRE was established in accordance with Section 1 of the Education Reform Act 1988 and advises the Authority on such matters connected with collective 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 sees fit. In particular the SACRE advises on methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.
- 3.2 The members of the SACRE are appointed by the authority so that they represent the following groups:

Group A: Christian denominations and other religions

- Free churches one representative
- Roman Catholic Church one representative
- Buddhism- one representative
- Hinduism- one representative
- Islam- two representative
- Judaism- one representative
- Sikhism- one representative

Group B: The Church of England - four representatives

Group C: Teacher Representatives

- The Professional Association of Teachers- one representative
- National Association of head Teachers- one representative
- NAS / UWT- one representative
- National Union of Teachers- one representative
- Secondary Head Teachers association- one representative

Group D: The Local Authority - five representatives

Members are nominated by the faith or representative group concerned. Vacancies have arisen and new nominations from represented groups have been sought.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 Following the meeting of SACRE that took place on 4 February 2010 (Minute 3 refers) it was agreed to amend the current constitution of the Reading SACRE as follows:

It was suggested that point (i) under the Terms of Office should be amended to set a limit to the length of time appointments were made to the SACRE as currently appointments were made for an indefinite period of time and there was no provision to replace representatives unless they resigned:

- "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" be changed to:
- "Members of the SACRE shall serve from the date of their appointment for a term of three years or until their successors are appointed by the Authority. They shall be eligible for reappointment after each term for a further term by consultation, if necessary, with the group which they represent. This shall also apply to co-opted members. May 2010 shall be the first year for the purpose of these three year appointments."

- 4.2 It was agreed that a quorum be established for meetings of the SACRE and it was suggested that a new point be added as (iv) under the heading Procedure:
 - "The quorum for a meeting of the SACRE shall be one member from each Group plus the person then acting as Chair, a total of five members."
- 4.3 To reflect recent changes relating to teaching unions it was agreed that associations representing teachers, under the heading Membership Structure be changed as follows:

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 The SACRE has a local responsibility to oversee religious education and collective worship in schools. It is designed to represent the interests of the local community and will promote equality and social inclusion through the representation of local faith communities and members of the education community.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 The Reading SACRE meets in public and its meetings are publicised through the production of hard copy agendas and publication of its agendas on the Council's web site.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 To fulfil its statutory requirements, Reading Borough Council agreed the membership formation of the SACRE in 1998, in order to fulfil the Education Acts of 1988 and 1993.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Proposed SACRE Constitution.

READING BOROUGH COUNCILSTANDING 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 Roman Catholic Church Budhism Hinduism Islam Judaism Sikhism					
Group B	The Church of England	4			
Group C	Associations representing teachers				
The Association of Teachers and Lecturers The National Association of Headteachers The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers The National Union of Teachers					
	ry Headteachers Association	1 1			
Group D	The Authority	5			
Grant Maintained Schools (non-voting)Co-opted members (non-voting)					

TERMS OF OFFICE

- (i) Members of the SACRE shall serve from the date of their appointment for a term of three years or until their successors are appointed by the Authority. They shall be eligible for reappointment after each term for a further term by consultation, if necessary, with the group which they represent. This shall also apply to co-opted members. May 2010 shall be the first year for the purpose of these three year appointments.
- (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 quorum for a meeting of the SACRE shall be one member from each Group plus the person then acting as Chair, a total of five members.
- (v) The SACRE shall determine the frequency of its own meetings so long as it meets no fewer than two occasions in any academic year.
- (vi) The Clerk to the SACRE shall be the Chief Education Officer of the Authority or his representative.
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) The costs of operating the SACRE and any committees it may establish shall be met by the Authority.

AGENDA ITEM: 4

DRAFT

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

LEAD

COUNCILLOR: COUNCILLOR RALPH

DATE:

TITLE: MEMBERSHIP OF THE READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

SERVICE: EDUCATION AND WARDS: BOROUGHWIDE

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

AUTHOR: JAN LEVER TEL: (0118) 937 4974

JOB TITLE: PSHE EDUCATION E-MAIL: Jan.lever@reading.gov.uk

CURRICULUM CONSULTANT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report sets out the decision to appoint new members to the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

2. DECISION

2.1 It is the decision of the Director of Education and Children's Services, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Education and Children's Services, that appointments be made within each group of the SACRE as detailed in paragraph 4.1 below.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The SACRE was established in accordance with Section 1 of the Education Reform Act 1988 and advises the Authority on such matters connected with collective 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 sees fit. In particular the SACRE advises on methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.
- 3.2 The members of the SACRE are appointed by the authority so that they represent the following groups:

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- Hinduism- one representative
- Islam- two representative
- Judaism- one representative
- Sikhism- one representative

Group B: The Church of England - four representatives

Group C: Teacher Representatives

- The Professional Association of Teachers- one representative
- National Association of head Teachers- one representative
- NAS / UWT- one representative
- National Union of Teachers- one representative
- Secondary Head Teachers association- one representative

Group D: The Local Authority - five representatives

Members are nominated by the faith or representative group concerned. Vacancies have arisen and new nominations from represented groups have been sought.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 The following appointments to the SACRE have been proposed by the appropriate bodies to represent the Church of England, other faiths and teacher associations to fill those vacancies left by resignations and retirements.

Group A

Rabbi Zvi Solomons Jewish Faith

Group B

June Hardcastle Church of England
Jo Fageant Church of England

4.2 Members of the SACRE shall serve from the date of their appointment for a term of three years or until their successors are appointed by the Authority. They shall be eligible for reappointment after each term for a further term by consultation, if necessary, with the group they represent. This also applies to co-opted members. May 2010 shall be the first year for the purpose of these 3 year appointments. 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.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 The SACRE has a local responsibility to oversee religious education and collective worship in schools. It is designed to represent the interests of the local community and will promote equality and social inclusion through the representation of local faith communities and members of the education community.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 The Reading SACRE meets in public and its meetings are publicised through the production of hard copy agendas and publication of its agendas on the Council's web site.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 To fulfil its statutory requirements, Reading Borough Council agreed the membership formation of the SACRE in 1998, in order to fulfil the Education Acts of 1988 and 1993.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None
- 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS
- 9.1 None

SACRE - 17 NOVEMBER 2010

Examination Results 2009 and 2010 - Key Stage 4

2009	GCSE Short GCSE F		Total Entrants/No. on Roll
Kendrick	0	30	30/95
Reading School	0	113	113/124
Reading Girls	0	0	
Highdown	0	73	73/124
Blessed Hugh	0	124	124/139
Prospect	(No GCSE opportunit available)	ies currently	

JMA (Academy therefore no information available)

Total entrants across Reading (of schools offering GCSE) 340/538

2010	GCSE Short	GCSE Full	Total Entrants/No. on Roll
Kendrick	0	31	31/92
Reading School	1	111	112/124
Reading Girls	85	0	85/128
Highdown	124	83	207/225
Blessed Hugh	0	109	109/126
Prospect	(No GCSE opportunit available)	ies currently	

JMA (Academy therefore have no information)

Total entrants across Reading (of schools offering GCSE) 544/695

SACRE - 17 NOVEMBER 2010

Examination Results 2009 and 2010 - Key Stage 5

2009	A/S	А	Total Entrants/No. on Roll
Kendrick	2	7	9
Reading School	0	1	1
Reading Girls	0	0	
Highdown	1	11	12
Blessed Hugh	3	7	10
Prospect	(No GCSE opportunit available)		

JMA (Academy therefore no information available)

Total entrants across Reading(of schools offering A/S and A) 32

2010	A/S	А	Total Entrants/No. on Roll	
Kendrick	1	7	8	
Reading School				
Reading Girls		1	1	
Highdown	3	8	11	
Blessed Hugh		1	1	
Prospect	(No GCSE opportunities currently available)			

JMA (Academy therefore have no information)

Total entrants across Reading (of schools offering A/S and A) 21



Annual SACRE Report 2009-2010

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Chair's Foreword

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

The work of the SACRE continued to develop as a result of an openness among members to work together, use their resources and partnerships already established, and share creative ideas to take RE forward and further support schools. An outline of the year's projects is set out in this report with further detail available in a collection of appendices.

1.2 Meetings

Three meetings were held during the year covered by this report:

10 November 2009

4 February 2010

1 July 2010

Following established practice, all the meetings were held at the Civic Centre.

1.3 Developments in the SACRE

1.3.1 Rabbi Zvi Solomons was elected as Chair, taking over from Rev. Mary Harwood. Mustafa Chaudhary was elected as Vice Chair. The constitution was discussed at the February meeting and some amendments agreed. The Terms of Office were amended to set a limit to the length of time SACRE appointments are made for. "Members of the SACRE shall serve from the date of their appointment for a term of three years or until their successors are appointed by the Authority. They shall be eligible for re-appointment after each term for a further term by consultation, if necessary, with the group which they represent. This shall also apply to co-opted members. "At this meeting it was also agreed that "quoracy" would be defined as, "The quorum for a meeting of the SACRE shall be one member from each Group plus the person acting as Chair, a total of five members."

Three new members were appointed:

Rabbi Zvi Solomons as Chair and member of Group A representing the Jewish Faith

June Hardcastle joined Group B representing the Church of England.

Jo Fageant stepped back from her role as professional adviser to the SACRE to become a member of Group B, also representing the Church of England.

- 1.3.2 Several vacancies still exist and it is hoped these will be filled soon to allow the SACRE to operate with its full complement of members. The possibility of a Youth SACRE or young people representation in under consideration.
- 1.3.3 Richard Woodford and Alfie Hay continued to offer stability to the SACRE in their respective roles as Clerk and local authority officer with responsibility for the SACRE. Jo Fageant also continued to work with the SACRE as its professional adviser. However, at the end of the Summer term, Alfie Hay retired from the Authority and was replaced by Jan Lever, an RE/PSHE Education Adviser currently employed by Reading Borough Council to lead PS|HEE. Jo Fageant, after serving SACRE with much professionalism as the RE Consultant, stepped back from this role but the SACRE was fortunate that she is willing to stay involved by becoming a Church of England representative in Group B.
- 1.3.4 The SACRE discussed a number of initiatives members would be interested in taking forward and made varying degrees of progress with them during the year. One successful event was the Open Day in March held at the Deenway School, an Islamic Montessori School for children aged from 3-11. The SACRE was also able to publicise inter-faith

initiatives like the Faith Walks, Diocesan events and wider West Berkshire partnership initiatives.

1.3.5 The SACRE received reports, articles and papers about RE in order to remain well informed about issues of local and national significance in the subject. In particular, members gave some consideration to the Ofsted Report (June 2010) "Transforming Religious Education". This will be afforded more time in relation to the revision of the current Agreed Syllabus. The new coalition government and its new approach has necessitated the SACRE keeping up to date with developments in education so as to safeguard the position of RE. The SACRE looks forward to the curriculum review.

2 Religious Education

2.1 The locally agreed syllabus for religious education

The syllabus, published and distributed in July 2006 for implementation from September 2006 is the syllabus being used in Reading schools. Members discussed ways in which they might canvas the views of teachers about the syllabus and monitor its use in schools. Headteachers in the Borough expressed a willingness for members to visit schools to observe and discuss RE and it is hoped that this initiative might be taken forward in the next academic year.

The SACRE has also initiated twice yearly informal gatherings for teachers of RE, the first being in November 2010 for Heads of RE in Reading secondary schools. It is hoped that building relationships will enable the SACRE to be better informed of the needs of schools and thus facilitate communication on all aspects of RE, including the use and effectiveness of the agreed syllabus.

July 2011 will see the establishment of the Agreed Syllabus Conference, and currently the SACRE is considering joining in partnership with the other 5 Authorities locally to work together on another shared Agreed Syllabus.

2.2 Standards in religious education

- 2.2.1 The SACRE examines data about standards achieved by pupils in Key Stages 4 and 5 in Reading schools. The SACRE has not found an effective strategy for monitoring standards in year groups before this, but hopes that building better relationships with schools will enable more effective communication regarding school self-evaluation.
- 2.2.2 Five of Reading's secondary schools entered students for GCSE examinations in religious studies, four for the full course and three for the short course, with two of these schools using both examinations. Three of these schools, as previous years, entered the majority of their cohort of eligible students for a GCSE examination in religious studies. A school which previously ran no accredited courses, this year entered 85 students for short course. This is a welcome addition. In another school only one third of the students sat an examination in RS. The school for which no GCSE opportunities are available has now started to offer an accredited online course "Vision to Learn" which includes RE, in Year 9.There is a marked increase in number of entrants at GCSE because of the new short course offered at one school. 334 students entered full course GCSE across the four schools offering it. Of these, 73.8% gained A*-C, and 98.5% gained A*-G. 210 students entered short course GCSE. Of these, 66.7% gained A*-C and 95.7% A*-G. Further details are held in the appendix.
- 2.2.3 Four schools entered students for AS (4 students) and A level (17 students) examinations in Religious Studies (or Logic/Philosophy) and all A level candidates achieved grades between A and E. Of the 4 AS students, 1 gained an A, 1 a B and 2 were ungraded. There

is a drop in the number of students choosing Religious Studies at A/S or A level, from 32 in 2009 to 21 in 2010. Further details are held in the appendix.

2.3 Methods of teaching religious education

No specific advice on methods of teaching religious education has been provided by the SACRE this year. However, in recognising the value of visiting places of worship and meeting people of faith, the SACRE has revised its Development Plan to include an annual conference for SACRE members, teachers, students and guests. This would offer an opportunity to discuss and experience a range of teaching and learning methods.

Teaching Resources

- 2.3.1 Schools and teachers in Reading have access, through annual subscriptions, to *Outreach*, the loans section of Reading Museum. This has a good collection of religious artefacts.
- 2.3.2 In association with the Anglican Diocese of Oxford, the Borough highlights for schools the value of the resources published termly by RE Today and offers a discount subscription rate.
 - The revised development plan includes the provision of a directory of resources, particularly places of worship and people willing to visit RE lessons to have dialogue with young people about their faith/belief positions, and/or specific themes
- 2.3.3 The SACRE continued to express an interest in exploring the possibility of arranging a gathering at which teachers and members of faith communities might meet together to discuss key topics. An annual conference and participating in events organised by partner organisations eg Inter-Faith Forum, might serve this purpose initially.
- 2.3.4 Members of the SACRE are also still keen to explore the possibility of organising a sixth form conference which might lead to the establishment of a youth SACRE within the Borough.

2.4 Continuing Professional Development Opportunities

2.4.1 Although no courses focused on religious education have been provided specifically for Reading schools during this academic year, the professional adviser to the SACRE was asked to consider ways in which this might be addressed during the next academic year, and the new development plan addresses this. This will, of course, be subject to budget and funding issues.

2.5 Complaints concerning RE

No complaints concerning RE have been received by the SACRE.

3. Collective Worship

3.1 Monitoring

During the year several members of the SACRE visited schools to observe acts of collective worship. The schools visited had volunteered to welcome members and the experience was valued by those who took part in the initiative. The SACRE decided to update and reissue, in the next academic year, its guidance to schools on collective worship.

Is this true for 2009-10?? Please add relevant information here. I'm afraid I don't have this information.

3.3 Determinations

No schools within Reading have applied to the SACRE for a determination, which would allow them to organise their daily act of collective worship in a way which was other than 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.' Members of the SACRE concluded that this suggested schools were finding ways of being inclusive whilst staying within the requirements of legislation.

Is this true for 2009-10?

3.4.1 Complaints concerning collective worship

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

4 Links with other agencies

- 4.1 SACRE is affiliated to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).
- 4.2 Reading SACRE and some of the Borough's schools continue their partnership with RE Inspired, a Christian organisation working to support RE in the area.
- 4.3 Several members of the SACRE attended a conference established for all the SACREs of the unitary authorities formerly part of Berkshire entitled, 'Identifying and Supporting Able, Gifted and Talented pupils in RE'. Dilwyn Hunt, RE Adviser in Dudley, provided a lively and stimulating presentation. Delegates responded positively to the evening and found it valuable to meet with members of neighbouring SACREs. A full conference report can be found in Appendix D.
 - Could someone replace this with a paragraph relating to this year's conference if it is appropriate, please?
- 4.4 The Adviser to the SACRE is a member of the Association of RE Advisers, Inspectors and Consultants and also works closely with the Anglican Diocese of Oxford. In the summer of 2008 she was elected to the executive of NASACRE. These links enable the SACRE to receive up to date information on a range of issues.

5 SACRE arrangements

5.1 Professional and administrative support

The Reading SACRE is clerked by a member of Committee Services, Richard Woodford, and supported by an officer from the authority. This officer was Alfie Hay until July 2010. Then, on his retirement, he was replaced by Jan Lever. In addition, the SACRE retained the services of a professional adviser to the SACRE, Jo Fageant. Jo served in this role until July 2010.

5.2 Finance

A budget of £2000 was allocated for the SACRE. The money finances consultancy support, courses and publications.

SACRE Membership 2010/11

Vacancy Maureen Meatcher

Kelsang Loten

Maya Malhotra (resigning pending nomination of

new Hindu rep) Mustafa Chaudhary

Vacancy (Munawar Karim to be nominated)

Rabbi Zvi Solomons (nominated 26/08/08)

Gurmail Singh (nominated 14/05/09) (sent apols to July 09 mtg but not attended since)

Jo Fageant (nominated 26/01/10)

Margaret Elcock

Revd Vincent Gardner (nominated 3/02/10) (yet

to attend a meeting)

June Hardcastle (nominated 01/09)

Vacancy

Maria Soulsby (nominated 07/08 resigning 11/10)

Bernard Eggleton Vera Bodman Beryl Smart Vacancy Clir Ballsdon

Clir Ballsdon Clir Janjua Clir C Harris Clir Eden

CIIr Livingston

Vacancy

(no longer any grant maintained schools in

Reading)

David McKnight, Humanist

Vacancy

Free Churches (Group A)

RC Diocese of Portsmouth (Group A)

Buddhism (Group A) Hindu Faith (Group A)

Islam (Group A)
Islam (Group A)

Jewish Faith (Group A) Sikhism (Group A)

Church of England (Group B) Church of England (Group B) Church of England (Group B)

Church of England (Group B)

ATL (Group C)
NAHT (Group C)
NASUWT(Group C)
NUT (Group C)
PAT???? (Group C)
SHA (Group C)

Reading Borough Council (Group D)

Grant Maintained Schools (non-

voting)

Co-opted member (non-voting)
Co-opted member (non-voting)

note - humanists can't be included in Gp A, even if the constitution was changed. Baha'l (former co-opted members) could be. humanists would have to be co-opted member.



Report summary

Transforming religious education

Religious education in schools 2006-09

The past three years have seen significant changes and developments in the world of religious education (RE). The recent implementation by the former Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) of an action plan for RE has provided opportunities to strengthen support for the subject. The emphasis on promoting community cohesion has given added importance to RE within the curriculum. However, despite the very considerable commitment and energy which many teachers bring to the subject, in many of the schools visited the provision was no better than satisfactory quality, or in some cases inadequate, and the effectiveness of much of the RE observed was not good enough.

There is an urgent need to review the way in which the subject is supported at a number of levels. Among the questions to be considered are: whether the current statutory arrangements for the local determination of the RE curriculum are effective; whether there is sufficient clarity about what constitutes learning in RE and how pupil progress can be measured; and whether the provision for professional development in RE is adequate.

The quality of RE in the sample of primary schools was broadly the same as that reported in 2007 and not enough was of good quality. In schools where achievement was satisfactory, several key weaknesses were common which inhibited pupils' learning. Most notably, the pattern of curriculum delivery of the subject often limited the opportunities for sustained learning in RE. Schools visited took the subject seriously but, in too many cases, teachers lacked the knowledge and confidence to plan and teach high quality RE lessons.

The quality of RE in the secondary schools visited was worse than in the schools involved in the 2007 survey. The proportion of schools where RE was inadequate was considerably higher than previously. Among the factors which detracted from the quality of the provision were the impact on RE of the recent changes to the wider curriculum, particularly at Key Stage 3, and weaknesses in the quality of learning in much of the provision for the short course GCSE in religious studies.

There are also positive developments. Examination entries in religious studies at GCSE and GCE A level have continued to rise each year since 2006, reinforcing a key success of the subject in recent years. Results in the full course GCSE are rising, although for the short course GCSE the results show only limited improvement, with



around 50% to 55% of those entered gaining the higher A* to C grades. Results at GCE A and AS level have remained broadly the same since 2006.

As reported in 2007, a key success of RE in the past decade has been the improvement in pupils' attitudes towards the subject. In most of the schools visited, pupils clearly understood the importance of learning about the diversity of religion and belief in contemporary society. Where pupils expressed more negative attitudes towards diversity, the RE provision was often inadequate and included few opportunities for them to develop an understanding of the beliefs and ways of life of others.

Section B of the report explores some of the issues arising from the survey findings. Although progress has been made in recent years in establishing greater clarity about the nature of RE, there are still serious areas of uncertainty about the subject which often inhibit teachers' ability to plan, teach and assess RE effectively, and undermine pupils' progress. A number of developments, including new programmes of study for RE by the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency which built on the publication in 2004 of the non-statutory national framework for RE, and the recent publication by the former DCSF of updated national guidance on RE, have gone some way to deal with some of these concerns.

However, the inspection evidence indicates that further work needs to be done to develop these initiatives further and to ensure that their impact in the classroom is more effective. In particular, more work needs to be done to clarify the place and use of concepts in RE and to define progression in pupils' learning more effectively. This report includes a consideration of the way in which a stronger role for enquiry in the teaching of RE could help address some of these issues.

A major success of RE is the way that it supports the promotion of community cohesion. In many schools RE plays a major role in helping pupils understand diversity and develop respect for the beliefs and cultures of others. Inspectors found a number of outstanding examples of good practice. There is scope to develop this contribution further by extending the use of local religious and belief communities in RE and ensuring that the changing nature of religion and belief in the contemporary world is reflected more strongly in the RE curriculum.

Previous Ofsted reports have raised the question of the effectiveness of the statutory arrangements in supporting the promotion of high quality RE. The current round of inspections has highlighted this issue again. There is still very significant variability in the quantity and quality of support for RE provided to schools by local authorities and Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education. Many schools have difficulty finding effective training in RE at local level in order to support implementation of the locally agreed syllabus. This report concludes that a review is needed to determine whether the statutory arrangements for the local determination of the RE curriculum which underpin the subject should be revised or whether ways can be found to improve their effectiveness.



Key findings

- Pupils' achievement in RE in the 94 primary schools visited was broadly similar to that reported in 2007. It was good or outstanding in four out of 10 schools and was inadequate in only one school.
- Students' achievement in RE in the secondary schools visited showed a very mixed picture. It was good or outstanding in 40 of the 89 schools visited but was inadequate in 14 schools.
- There has been a continuing rise in the numbers taking GCSE and A- and AS-level examinations in RE. Some concerns remain, however, about the quality of much of the learning that takes place in GCSE short courses.
- Most of the secondary schools in the survey with sixth forms did not fully meet the statutory requirement to provide core RE for all students beyond the age of 16.
- RE made a positive contribution to key aspects of pupils' personal development, most notably in relation to the understanding and appreciation of the diverse nature of our society. However, the subject's contribution to promoting pupils' spiritual development was often limited.
- The contribution of RE to the promotion of community cohesion was a strength of the subject in most of the schools visited. However, there is scope to extend the opportunities within the curriculum to enrich pupils' learning through greater use of fieldwork and contacts with religious and belief groups in the local community.
- There is uncertainty among many teachers of RE about what they are trying to achieve in the subject resulting in a lack of well-structured and sequenced teaching and learning, substantial weaknesses in the quality of assessment and a limited use of higher order thinking skills to promote greater challenge.
- Where RE was most effective, it used a range of enquiry skills such as investigation, interpretation, analysis, evaluation and reflection. However, this use is not yet defined clearly enough or integrated effectively within guidance to schools and, as a result, is not embedded sufficiently into classroom practice.
- There were a number of specific weaknesses in the teaching about Christianity. Many primary and secondary schools visited did not pay sufficient attention to the progressive and systematic investigation of the core beliefs of Christianity.
- There were significant inconsistencies in the way humanism and other nonreligious beliefs were taught, and some uncertainties about the relationship between fostering respect for pupils' beliefs and encouraging open, critical, investigative learning in RE.
- The reliance on a narrow curriculum model in primary schools based on RE being delivered in half-termly units taught weekly, often inhibited sustained learning in the subject and limited the opportunities to link the subject to other areas of the curriculum.



- The revised Key Stage 3 secondary curriculum, introduced in September 2008, was having a negative impact on RE provision in about a third of the 30 secondary schools surveyed in 2008–09, particularly in Year 7. Too often the impact of these changes was not being monitored effectively.
- There was often a lack of continuity and progression between the RE curriculum in Key Stage 3 and the GCSE short courses. In the worst cases, this lack of continuity distorted pupils' understanding of religion and belief.
- The effectiveness of specialist staff training in RE was inadequate in four out of 10 of the schools visited. They were not giving sufficient time and resources to support teachers' professional development in the subject.
- The effectiveness of local arrangements to support RE varied too much and many local authorities did not ensure that their Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education had sufficient capacity to fulfil their responsibilities effectively.

Main report published 6 June 2010 www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/090215

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No. 090215

AGENDA ITEM: 10

SACRE - 17 NOVEMBER 2010

Notes to accompany the Draft Development Plan

Budget considerations:

Budget to end March 2011

£3200

Costs:

SACRE Adviser x5 days employed by RBC until end December 2010 £1020 NASACRE subscription 2010-11 £95

Balance to spend before end March 2011:

£2085

What do we need before April 2011?

SACRE Adviser time to prepare for and attend February 3rd meeting (agenda, venue, presentation, finalise development plan etc) £500

Spring Term RE newsletter £300, plus print and distribution (? £50)

Plan Summer informal teacher/SACRE gathering. SACRE Adviser time to prepare and invite schools £300

Total to spend before April 2010 £1150

£2085 - £1150 = £935 balance to be spent before April 2010

NB

It is uncertain what the budget from April 2011 will look like for SACRE in these times of major cuts etc

DRAFT

Reading SACRE Development Plan, September 2010 - April 2011 April 2011-July 2012

Objective	Action	Timescale	Success Criteria	Cost	Key Personnel				
Statutory obligations	Statutory obligations								
SACRE to meet to fulfil its duties	Meetings to be convened with agendas and relevant papers for discussion and action. An annual calendar of meetings is published.	Once per term	A meeting held each term following the distribution of minutes, agenda and relevant papers for discussion and action	Consultant time (£400 per meeting, inc. preparation /organising speaker etc)	SACRE Adviser Committee Services				
Produce an annual report on the work of the SACRE	Using records and papers of meetings, analysis of Ofsted reports, statistics on GCSE and A level entries and results in RS, records and evaluations of RE courses write a report, with appendices, on the work of the Reading SACRE.	To be presented as a draft to the autumn meeting of the SACRE	Finalised version of the SACRE report should be sent to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (or as advised when QCDA no longer there) by the end of December and published and distributed to all Reading schools and Reading University by the end of January.	Refreshments 1 day consultant time (£300) Printing and distribution costs	SACRE Adviser				

For	thcoming priorities	and on-going initiatives				
	area	Action	Priority/ timescale	Success criteria	Cost	Key personnel
		ty of provision of religious	education		T	T
1a	Compliance and time allocation for RE	Build relationships with schools and, through events, ascertain time allowance for RE in each school.		By July 2011 SACRE has the information needed to inform the review of syllabus and school and training needs.		SACRE Adviser
1b	Public exam entries in RE	Annual analysis of GCSE and A level entry and results statistics Analysis of information about entries and results by gender and as compared with previous years	October on publication of results	Analysis to be completed in time for presentation to the SACRE at the autumn term meeting and for inclusion in the annual report	Consultant time (estimated at £200)	SACRE Adviser
1c	Standards and achievement	School self-evaluation		By July 2011 SACRE has the information needed to inform the review of syllabus, school and training needs.	Included in 1a cost	SACRE Adviser
1d	Quality of teaching	Annual RE conference for teachers of RE/SACRE member and guests	Summer Term 2012 .	Teacher delegates record on evaluation forms how the conference will impact on their teaching and pupils' learning.	Planning time/admin time X4 days SACRE Adviser time @ £300 Venuecostsetc?? Schools pay for teacher places	SACRE Adviser SACRE conference sub-group Admin support through DECS?

1e	Quality of leadership and management	Possibly parallel this with a student conference Annual RE conference for teachers of RE/SACRE members	Summer Term	Increase the knowledge of students by participation Ditto	?? Ditto	Work with schools and youth participation project/Youth Cabinet Ditto
1f	Recruitment and retention issues	and guests				
1g	Resources	Support schools in accessing people from faith communities and organisations relevant to the RE curriculum who could visit RE lessons to enhance learning opportunities.	July 2011	Circulate a recommended list of visitors to schools.	Sub-group time. Possibly admin/ publication/CD costs? £200	SACRE sub-group Faith Forum
		Include market place of resources at Annual Conference Encourage schools to visit places of worship.	Summer Term Through newsletters and open days	Teachers report usefulness of market place Increasing uptake of visits and trail use		Conference sub- group and SACRE Adviser
2 M	anagement of the S	Develop the Reading RE Trail ACRE and partnership with	?	key stakeholders		

2a	SACRE meetings and informal meetings with teachers of RE	Host meetings in schools and significant venues	February 2011 onwards	SACRE members and guests report being pleased with venue choices and learn about religions, beliefs and RE through the venues	Consultant time costed in time for preparation for statutory SACRE meetings (as above)	SACRE members And SACRE Adviser to liaise with schools
		Twice-yearly gathering for teachers to meet with SACRE members	November 10 th 2010 ,Tea and cakes	Publish dates with the SACRE calendar of meetings each year. Increasing number of teachers Attend each time.	Venue/refreshm ent costs. SACRE Adviser time to plan and attend? (estimated at £300 per meeting)	SACRE sub-group to plan with SACRE Adviser
		The SACRE to receive presentations related to religious education: Faith communities, teachers, students to be approached and invited to provide brief presentations for SACRE meetings	Potential presentations to be identified as required and initially connected to the venues chosen for meetings	SACRE members report enhancing their own knowledge and understanding through a presentation each meeting.	Travel expenses of speakers SACRE Adviser time costes in preaparation time for each meeting	SACRE Adviser to invite and liaise with speakers on SACRE's request
2b	Membership and training	Review vacancy list and plan to recruit to full complement of members	SACRE meetings starting November 2010	By April 2011 the SACRE to have no vacancies and be quorate at each meeting		SACRE members

		Reading SACRE renews its annual subscription to NASACRE every year	October/Novem ber	Attendance at NASACRE Conference etc	£95 annual subscription	Committee Services to organise payment?
		Members are well informed about SACRE related issues and themselves contribute to national debates on such issues Volunteers from among SACRE members to attend NASACRE and other events	Ongoing	The SACRE is represented at all appropriate national conferences	Conference fees and travel costs incurred by representatives Budget £500	Members of the SACRE
2c	Improvement/ Development planning	Revise progress against actions in development plan and set new priorities at each meeting of the SACRE	Termly SACRE meetings	Updated development plan at each meeting with achievements recorded	Consultant time included in meeting preparation	SACRE Adviser
2d	Professional and financial support	Consider professional support for SACRE after December 2010	November 2010 meeting for implementation January 2011 onwards	Continuous professional support to SACRE		SACRE
2e	Information and advice	SACRE and schools to receive a newsletter about RE on a termly basis. Newsletter to be written, compiled and	Each term	Publication and distribution of a newsletter each term	Consultant time (£300) and printing and distribution costs(£50)	Jo Fageant + Sheila Mason?(in partnership with West Berkshire?)

		distributed on a termly basis				
2f	Partnerships with other key stakeholders	Consider co-opting members from other bodies (e.g. University of Reading, RCRE)				
3. The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus		Project plan for the review of the current Agreed Syllabus, in partnership with the West Berkshire consortium	November meeting 2010, and then a project plan to begin Summer term 2011	Current syllabus reviewed and revised as necessary for implementation September 2012	Costs to be brought to SACRE	Agreed Syllabus Conference West Berkshire Partnership SACRE Adviser?
4. C	ollective worship					
4a 4b	Practice and provision for collective worship Monitoring the provision of collective	Devise a plan for monitoring the success of the guidance on collective worship SACRE members be tasked to visit schools and 'sit in' on				
	worship and tackling issues of non-compliance	collective worship Survey parents/governors/tea chers on attitudes towards collective worship				
5. Contribution of the SACRE to the social and racial harmony agenda						
5a	Representative nature of the SACRE					
5b	Knowledge and understanding of the local religious, cultural					

	and ethnic community				
5c	Understanding the intrinsic contribution which RE can make to social and racial harmony	Publicise the Resilience Project (RE Council)	Publicise Autumn term 2010. Invite participating schools to present to SACRE Summer Term 2011	Some Reading secondary schools participate in the Resilience Project and hence action plan to improve the delivery of "controversial issues " in RE. These schools invited to present their review of the project Summer term 2011	SACRE Adviser
		Support schools to participate in Holocaust Memorial Day each January	Prepare schools Autumn term to participate January each year	Increasing number of schools participate year on year	
5d	Links to local authority initiatives promoting social and racial harmony				

AGENDA ITEM: 14

SACRE - FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

3 FEBRUARY 2011 JUNE/JULY 2011 NOVEMBER 2011

UNALLOCATED ITEMS