

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 -
3 FEBRUARY 2011

A meeting of the Reading SACRE will be held on **Thursday 3 February 2011 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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7. INTERFAITH REPORT ON SOCIAL INCLUSION	Report to be tabled (if available)

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**READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINUTES -
17 NOVEMBER 2010**

Present:

Mustafa Chaudhary	Islam (Group A)
Kelsang Loten	Buddhism (Group A)
Rabbi Zvi Solomons (Chair)	Jewish Faith (Group A) - Nominee
Jo Fageant	Church of England (Group B) - Nominee
Vera Bodman	NUT (Group C)
Councillor Ballsdon	Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Councillor Eden	Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Councillor C Harris	Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Councillor Livingston	Reading Borough Council (Group D)

Also in Attendance:

David McKnight	Berkshire Humanists
Jan Lever	Reading Borough Council
Richard Woodford	Reading Borough Council

Apologies:

Margaret Elcock	Church of England (Group B)
Bernard Eggleton	NASUWT (Group C)
Maria Soulsby	Headteacher, New Christ Church (Group C) - Nominee
Munawar Karim	Deenway School

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 4 of the last meeting, Matters Arising - SACRE budget, the Chair informed the SACRE that the SACRE budget had been ascertained for 2010/11, see Minute 9 below.

Further to Minute 4 of the last meeting, Matters Arising - Agreed Syllabus Conference, Mustafa Chaudhary informed the SACRE that Jan Lever had included costings for the Agreed Syllabus Conference in the draft Development Plan, see Minute 9 below.

Further to Minute 4 of the last meeting, Matters Arising - SACRE Newsletter, Jo Fageant informed the SACRE that the SACRE Newsletter was nearing completion.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

3. SACRE CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP

Jan Lever, submitted two draft Decision Book reports to amend the SACRE Constitution and update the membership of the SACRE.

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The Chair informed the SACRE that resignations had recently been received from Beryl Smart (PAT (Group C)) and from nominee members June Hardcastle (Church of England (Group B)) and Maria Soulsby (Head teacher, New Christ Church, Church of England Primary School (Group C)).

The SACRE discussed the draft reports and agreed that the SACRE Constitution should be discussed at the next meeting of SACRE.

AGREED:

- (1) That the draft Decision Book Reports be approved;
- (2) That the SACRE Constitution be discussed at the meeting to be held on 3 February 2011.

4. INTERFAITH GROUP REPORT ON SOCIAL INCLUSION

AGREED: That the Interfaith Group report on Social Inclusion be submitted to the next meeting of SACRE on 3 February 2011.

5. HOW CAN SACRE BEST SUPPORT SCHOOLS

The SACRE discussed the meeting with teachers that had taken place on 10 November 2010 and a number of points were raised including the following:

- The SACRE acknowledged the impact that schools becoming academies would have on the SACRE and on its role;
- The teachers had requested that a SACRE conference should be held at least once a year and that the syllabus, which was due to be reviewed in 2011, should not be changed although they stated that it was 'content heavy'; Jo Fageant informed the SACRE that national thinking was to slim down syllabuses and therefore such a request was in line with national guidance;
- The suggestion that children should be involved with the SACRE had been welcomed by the teachers and it was suggested that pupils could be invited to a meeting of SACRE to give feedback on the syllabus;
- It was suggested that SACRE meetings could be held in schools and that teachers from Reading School had said they would be happy to host the February 2011 meeting.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

6. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS 2010

Jan Lever, submitted a number of tables showing the Religious Education/Religious Studies examination results for 2009 and 2010 at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5.

The examination results in 2009 and 2010 at Key Stage 4 had been as follows:

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2009	GCSE Short	GCSE Full	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 opportunities currently available)		
Total Entrants (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 opportunities currently available)		
Total Entrants (of schools offering GCSE)			544/695

The examination results in 2009 and 2010 at Key Stage 5 had been as follows:

2009	A/S	A	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 opportunities currently available)		
Total Entrants (of schools offering A/S and A)			32

2010	A/S	A	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)		
Total Entrants (of schools offering A/S and A)			21

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Information was not available for the John Madejski Academy due to its status as an academy and as such was independent from the local authority.

Jan Lever informed the SACRE that she had met with the Head of Humanities at Prospect School who had told her that an on-line course had been made available to year nine pupils that included religious education and that the school would welcome representatives from different faiths to attend the school and talk to the pupils.

The SACRE requested that they be provided with further analysis of the results showing the grades attained at each school and acknowledged that it was difficult to make comparisons in the Borough and nationally between secondary schools due to the diverse nature of the schools in the Borough.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That Jan Lever provide the SACRE with a break down of the 2010 RE examination results by grade.

7. DRAFT ANNUAL SACRE REPORT 2010

Jan Lever submitted the draft Annual SACRE Report for the academic year 2009-2010.

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

- Jo Fageant told the SACRE that she had provided alternative wording for paragraph 4.3 on the Joint SACREs Conference that had taken place in June 2010 and had produced a full report on the Conference that would be attached to the report as an appendix;
- Jo Fageant confirmed that no school in the Borough had ever 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';
- The SACRE noted that Jo Fageant had ceased to be consultant to the SACRE in March 2010 and had not been in this role at the July 2010 meeting as stated in the draft report.

AGREED: That the draft Annual Report 2009-2010 be approved subject to the document being updated with the amendments suggested by the SACRE.

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8. OFSTED REPORT - TRANSFORMING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Jan Lever submitted a summary of the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) report on Transforming Religious Education - Religious Education in Schools 2006 - 09.

The SACRE discussed the report and a number of points were made including the following:

- It was suggested that the SACRE should investigate the possibility of making its RE services/resources available to schools and academies in the Borough, possibly through the Reading Faith Forum, and that the schools be asked to make a contribution for the services that would be provided which could be used to fund the provision of a RE consultant/Advisor for the SACRE. It was also suggested that the SACRE Newsletter could be provided to schools at a charge and that a robust plan would need to be put together setting out what the SACRE could provide;
- Jan Lever informed the SACRE that she would be leaving the authority in December 2010 and the SACRE agreed that it was important that they retained the services of a consultant/RE Advisor;
- Jo Fageant informed the SACRE that a report setting out advice to SACREs on accessing local authority support was available on the NASACRE web site - <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/downloads/supsacres.doc>;
- The design and format of the next RE Syllabus should be produced in such a way that it would support and help teachers provide effective RE teaching and address any issues they might have.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

9. DRAFT SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Jan Lever submitted a draft copy of the SACRE Development Plan and notes to accompany the draft plan.

The notes stated that a budget of £3200 had been allocated to SACRE for the year to March 2011 and that the total that remained to be spent before April 2011 was £1150.

Jan informed the SACRE that she had tried to include the statutory obligations of the SACRE in the Development Plan and had included points that had been raised at the meeting with teachers that had taken place on 10 November 2010, see Minute 5 above, and points that had been raised at a meeting she had had with Jo Fageant.

The SACRE discussed the Development Plan and the main points raised were as follows:

- In respect of Standards and Achievement Jo Fageant informed the SACRE that an on-line self evaluation tool was available on the REonline web site

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(http://betterre.reonline.org.uk/lead_manage/toolkit.php) and that the SACRE could encourage all schools to use the tool which would provide them with anonymous feedback;

- It was suggested that the new RE Syllabus could be launched at the Annual RE Conference for teachers which it had been proposed to hold in summer 2012 possibly in parallel with a conference for students;
- With regard to people from faith communities and organisations relevant to the RE curriculum visiting RE lessons it was suggested that training should be provided to ensure that the presentations they gave would be of a high quality and that the quality of provision was consistent for all those who took part;
- It was suggested that the SACRE could take a funding approach by offering its services to Reading University to assist in its teacher training programme;
- In order to assist in monitoring the provision of collective worship it was suggested that small seminar sessions could be held a number of times each year with up to 10 teachers attending and that ways of engaging parents should also be investigated;
- It was suggested that in order to start the process of providing services to schools the SACRE could work with one school over the period of a year on a trial basis and that thereafter the service could be offered to the other schools in the Borough. It was also suggested that SACRE could act as a catalyst for good practice in the provision of RE in the Borough's schools;
- The SACRE agreed that it would be happy to promote the Resilience Project which was a programme that was being offered free of charge to maintained schools in England and Wales up to March 2011 to help them increase their confidence in addressing contentious issues particularly those sometimes linked to violent extremism (<http://www.re-silience.org.uk/index.php>);
- It was suggested that the actions on the draft development plan could be prioritised or that a RAG analysis could be applied and it was therefore agreed that a Sub-Group should be formed to prioritise the actions or to identify those actions that should be addressed before April 2011.

Finally, the SACRE agreed that the balance of its budget should be used to engage Jan Lever as consultant to the SACRE to April 2011.

AGREED:

- (1) That the draft development plan be approved subject to the document being updated with the amendments suggested by the SACRE;
- (2) That the remainder of the SACRE budget be used to employ Jan Lever as SACRE consultant to April 2011;

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- (3) That a sub-group be set up to include the Chair, Mustafa Chaudhary and Jan Lever to prioritise the actions detailed in the draft development plan or to identify those actions that should be addressed before April 2011.

10. AGREED SYLLABUS REVIEW - THE WAY FORWARD

Jan Lever informed the SACRE that Jo Fageant would be attending a meeting on Friday 19 November 2010 where potential models for the production of the Agreed Syllabus Review would be discussed, such as SACREs of neighbouring authorities working together, and that this would clarify the way forward for the syllabus review in Reading.

The SACRE discussed the Agreed Syllabus Review and it was suggested that West Berkshire should take the lead in the review.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That the proposal that West Berkshire take the lead in the Agreed Syllabus Review be approved.

11. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

The Chair informed the SACRE that Holocaust Memorial Day would take place on Thursday 27 January 2011 and that it was important that schools and young people should be involved in the event.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

12. CHANUKAH LIGHTING IN MAYOR'S PARLOUR

The Chair informed the SACRE that the Chanukah lighting would take place at 3.30 pm on Tuesday 1 December 2010 in the Mayor's Parlour at the Civic Offices and that although members of SACRE would be welcome to attend numbers would be limited.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

13. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

The SACRE considered items for the Future Work Programme.

AGREED: That the following items be submitted to the next meeting of the SACRE:

- (a) Securing funding for an RE consultant/advisor;
- (b) SACRE Development Plan.

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14. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

AGEED: That the next meeting be held at 6.30 pm on Thursday 3 February
2011.

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 8.50 pm)



Reading
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**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.

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 is 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 PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education). Jo Fageant, after serving SACRE with much professionalism as the RE Consultant, stepped back from this role in January 2010, 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

- 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 appendix C.

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 appendix C.

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. Development Plan held in appendix D.

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 and 38 themed boxes of resources relating to RE.
- 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, some teachers from Reading attended a course in December entitled, "Respect through RE: How can RE enable attitudes of respect and promote community cohesion?". This was led by Lat Blaylock of RE Today Services and organised by the Diocese of Oxford. It was agreed by all participants that this was an inspiring day. 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

In awareness of the diversity of the Reading community, which is reflected in the SACRE membership, several members have a particular interest in enhancing the provision for Collective Worship embracing faith traditions in addition to those “mainly Christian” aspects. 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.

3.2 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.

3.3 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, “Walking the walk and talking the talk”, led by Paul Hopkins who provided a very lively and stimulating presentation. This conference considered the learning opportunities offered by devising RE trails, enabling children to walk around their local area and learn RE through getting to know and understand the sites and buildings of significance to people of different faiths. Delegates worked in SACRE groups to consider the possibilities of devising trails in their own localities. Many ideas were generated by the Reading delegates and members are keen to develop trails in the town in partnership with schools. A full conference report can be found in Appendix E.

4.4 A member of SACRE who previously served as its professional adviser, 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. The new adviser to the SACRE is also a member of AREIAC.

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 January 2010.

5.2 Finance

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

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 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.

SACRE Membership 2010/11

<i>Vacancy</i>	Free Churches (Group A)
Maureen Meatcher	RC Diocese of Portsmouth (Group A)
Kelsang Loten	Buddhism (Group A)
Maya Malhotra (resigning pending nomination of new Hindu rep)	Hindu Faith (Group A)
Mustafa Chaudhary	Islam (Group A)
<i>Vacancy (Munawar Karim to be nominated??)</i>	Islam (Group A)
Rabbi Zvi Solomons	Jewish Faith (Group A)
Gurmail Singh (nominated 14/05/09) (sent apols to July 09 mtg but not attended since)	Sikhism (Group A)
Jo Fageant	Church of England (Group B)
Margaret Elcock	Church of England (Group B)
Revd Vincent Gardner (nominated 3/02/10) (yet to attend a meeting)	Church of England (Group B)
<i>Vacancy</i>	Church of England (Group B)
<i>Vacancy</i>	ATL (Group C)
<i>Vacancy</i>	NAHT (Group C)
Bernard Eggleton	NASUWT(Group C)
Vera Bodman	NUT (Group C)
<i>Vacancy</i>	SHA (Group C)
Cllr Ballsdon	Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Cllr Janjua	Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Cllr C Harris	Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Cllr Eden	Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Cllr Livingston	Reading Borough Council (Group D)
<i>Vacancy</i> (no longer any grant maintained schools in Reading)	Grant Maintained Schools (non-voting)
David McKnight, Humanist	Co-opted member (non-voting)
<i>Vacancy</i>	Co-opted member (non-voting)

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

READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Examination Results 2009/2010

2009	GCSE Short	GCSE Full	A* - C %	A* - G %	Total Entrants/No. on Roll
Kendrick	0	30	100	100	30/95
Reading School	0	113	96.5	100	113/124
Reading Girls	0	0	0	0	0
Highdown	0	73	94.5	100	73/124
Blessed Hugh	0	124	34.7	96	124/139
Prospect	(No GCSE opportunities currently available)				
Total Entrants (of schools offering GCSE)	0	0	73.8	98.5	340/538

2010	GCSE Short	A* - B %	A* - G %	GCSE Full	A* - C %	A* - G %	Total Entrants/No. on Roll
Kendrick	0	0	0	31	100	100	31/92
Reading School	1	100	100	111	100	100	112/124
Reading Girls	85	85.9	100	0	0	0	85/128
Highdown	124	53.2	92.7	83	98.8	100	207/225
Blessed Hugh	0	0	0	109	52.3	95.4	109/126
Prospect	(No GCSE opportunities currently available)						
Total Entrants (of schools offering GCSE)	0	66.7	95.7	0	84.1	98.5	544/695

READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Examination Results 2009/2010

2009	A/S	A-B	A-E	A	A-B	A-E	Total Entrants/No. on Roll
Kendrick	2	100	100	7	100	100	9
Reading School	0	0	0	1	0	100	1
Reading Girls	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Highdown	1	0	100	11	63.6	100	12
Blessed Hugh	3	66.7	100	7	28.6	100	10
Prospect	(No GCSE opportunities currently available)						
Total Entrants (of schools offering A/S and A)	0	66.7	100	0	61.5	100	32

2010	A/S	A	A-B	A-E	Total Entrants/No. on Roll
Kendrick	1 (1xA)	7	85.7	100	8
Reading School	0	0-	0	0	0
Reading Girls	0	1 (1XC)	0	100	1
Highdown	3 (1XB, 2XU)	8 (No As or Bs)	0	100	11
Blessed Hugh	0	1 (1xD)	0	100	1
Prospect	(No GCSE opportunities currently available)				
Total Entrants (of schools offering A/S and A)	0	0	0	100	21

Reading SACRE Development Plan,
2010 - 2012

Objective	Action	Timescale	Success Criteria	Cost	Key Personnel
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) Refreshments	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 DfE ? (or as advised) and published and distributed to all Reading schools and Reading University by the end of January.	1 day consultant time (£400) Printing and distribution costs	SACRE Adviser

Forthcoming priorities and on-going initiatives						
Key area	Action	Priority/ timescale	Success criteria	Cost	Key personnel	
1. Standards and quality of provision of religious education						
1a	Compliance and time allocation for RE	Build relationships with schools and, through events, ascertain time allowance for RE in each school.		SACRE has the information needed to inform the review of the syllabus and school and training needs.		SACRE
1b	Public exam entries in RE	<i>Annual analysis of GCSE and A level entry and results statistics Analysis of information about entries and as compared with previous years</i>	<i>October on publication of results</i>	<i>Analysis to be completed in time for presentation to the SACRE at the autumn term meeting and for inclusion in the annual report</i>	<i>Consultant time (estimated at £200)</i>	<i>SACRE Adviser</i>
1c	Standards and achievement	School self-evaluation and schools participation in the syllabus review and development		SACRE has the information needed to inform the review of the syllabus, school and training needs.		SACRE and agreed syllabus review team
1d	Quality of teaching	<i>Annual RE conference for teachers of RE/SACRE members/students and guests</i>	<i>Summer Term 2012 or sooner if funding allows .</i>	<i>Teacher delegates record on evaluation forms how the conference will impact on their teaching and pupils' learning. Guests may join pool of speakers.</i>	<i>Planning time/admin time X4 days SACRE Adviser time @ £400 Venuecostsetc?? Schools pay for teacher places Possibility of</i>	<i>SACRE Adviser SACRE conference sub-group Admin support through DECS?</i>

		<i>Possibly parallel this with a student conference or include students in main conference.</i>		<i>Increase the knowledge of students by participation</i>	<i>NASACRE grant funding?</i> ??	<i>Work with schools and youth participation project/Youth Cabinet</i>
1e	Quality of leadership and management	Annual RE conference for teachers of RE/SACRE members and guests	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
1f	Recruitment and retention issues	Encourage schools to report to SACRE any issues and concerns to engage support				
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. Include market place of resources at Annual Conference Encourage schools to visit places of worship. Develop the Reading RE Trail Encourage schools to	July 2011 Summer Term Through newsletters and open days Publicise in the	Circulate a recommended list of visitors to schools. Teachers report usefulness of market place Increasing uptake of visits and trail use Improved teaching and learning	Sub-group time. Possibly admin/publication/CD costs ? £200 Cost to schools	SACRE sub-group Faith Forum Conference sub-group and SACRE Adviser Adviser time costed at £400 a day) SACRE

		maximise their use of the RBC Museum Resource and artefact boxes through them buying annual subscriptions.	SACRE newlstter and DECS e.bulletin	in RE through the use of exciting and relevant resources.		
2. Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LEA and other key stakeholders						
2a	SACRE meetings and informal meetings with teachers of RE	Host meetings in schools and significant venues	June 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 attending each time.	Venue/refreshment costs. SACRE Adviser time to plan and attend? (estimated at £300 per meeting)	SACRE sub-group to plan with SACRE Adviser
		<i>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</i>	<i>Potential presentations to be identified as required and initially connected to the venues chosen for meetings</i>	<i>SACRE members report enhancing their own knowledge and understanding through a presentation each meeting.</i>	<i>Travel expenses of speakers SACRE Adviser time costs in preparation time for each meeting</i>	<i>SACRE Adviser to invite and liaise with speakers on SACRE's request</i>

2b	Membership and training	Review vacancy list and plan to recruit to full complement of members	SACRE meetings starting November 2010	By July 2011 the SACRE to have no vacancies and be quorate at each meeting		SACRE members
		<i>Reading SACRE renews its annual subscription to NASACRE every year</i>	<i>October/November</i>	<i>Attendance at NASACRE Conference etc</i>	<i>£95 annual subscription</i>	<i>Committee Services to organise payment</i>
		<i>Members are well informed about SACRE related issues and themselves contribute to national debates on such issues</i> Volunteers from among SACRE members to attend NASACRE and other events	Ongoing	<i>The SACRE is represented at all appropriate national conferences</i>	<i>Conference fees and travel costs incurred by representatives</i> <i>Budget £500</i>	<i>Members of the SACRE</i>
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 and sub-groups
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 and DECS

2e	Information and advice	<i>SACRE and schools to receive a newsletter about RE on a termly basis. Newsletter to be written, compiled and distributed on a termly basis</i>	<i>Each term</i>	<i>Publication and distribution of a newsletter each term</i>	<i>Consultant time (£300) and printing and distribution costs (£50)</i>	<i>Jo Fageant + Sheila Mason (in partnership with West Berkshire)</i>
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 and Jo Fageant
4. Collective worship						
4a	Practice and provision for collective worship					
4b	Monitoring the provision of collective worship and tackling issues of non-compliance	SACRE members be tasked to visit schools and 'sit in' on collective worship and feed back to SACRE. SACRE members to offer support to schools from range of belief perspectives.	September 2010 onwards	A better range of collective worship resources , inclusive of a broader range of belief perspectives is evidenced in school worship		SACRE sub-group
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	<i>See 2a above</i>				
5c	Understanding the intrinsic contribution which RE can make to social and racial harmony	Publicise the Resilience Project (RE Council) Support schools to participate in Holocaust Memorial Day each January	Publicise Autumn term 2010. Invite participating schools to present to SACRE Summer Term 2011 Prepare schools Autumn term to participate January each year	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 Increasing number of schools participate year on year		SACRE Adviser and SACRE
5d	Links to local authority initiatives promoting social and racial harmony	SACRE members keep the SACRE informed of events and initiatives eg Faith Walks, conferences etc	Ongoing			

Joint SACREs conference, June 2010

Walking the Walk and Talking the Talk

Jo Fageant welcomed everyone to this year's conference and introduced Paul Hopkins as the guest speaker.

RE Trails

Paul spoke of his enthusiasm for learning outside the classroom and some experiences of working with children out in the community. One example was of working with KS1 pupils going out into a village with video cameras. Very young children are happy to use all sorts of devices. One boy had come back with a collection of pictures of cows because 'cows are awesome'.

The idea behind trails is to get children to go out into an area. Children can even make their own trails. There is a website (<http://www.retrails.org.uk/>) to support the idea of trails. All this originated as a project for the Religious Education Council (REC).

Paul reminded us that it is always a good when in a new place to look up. At street level most places are pretty much the same but looking up reveals all sorts of wonderful architecture and history.

RE trails can include a wide variety of elements eg war memorials (Remembrance Day is a very spiritual occasion) places of worship, street names revealing aspects of Christian history. Churchyards are a rich resource.

The task undertaken during the conference was to think about aspects of our local areas that could be included in a walking trail. A trail could be designed to take anything between an hour and half a day - it will depend on how much you include.

Delegates were quick to pick up the idea with enthusiasm and think of interesting places eg Waterstones in Reading used to be a URC Chapel. Rabbi Solomons said there is an organisation exploring the Jewish built environment. At Reading Abbey a convert to Judaism was burned at the stake.

There are quite a number of places in communities which have had multiple uses. An extreme example can be found in Brick Lane in the East End of London where there is a building that has had many changes of use, it has been a mosque, synagogue, church, gurdwara etc because of changing patterns of immigration. There are also house mosques, churches etc. Increasingly religious communities are able to fund the building of purpose-built places of worship.

Learning outside the classroom (LOtC) gives all sorts of opportunities for enquiry based learning. Looking at religious changes in areas and why they occur eg redundant churches, places of worship for newly established communities. Even pub names raise interesting questions - those called the Cross Keys show something of the influence of religion in the community.

How does a trail develop?

There are 3 stages

- You need to think about the group for which it is prepared. (Could it be a skeleton format that could be adapted for different groups. Eg youngest looking for signs and symbols, older ones looking at changing patterns of worship in a community; link between religion and architecture etc.)
- You need to think about elements that might be included eg shops eg kosher, hallal; street names reveal things - not always positive, there can be negatives

- You need to think about aspects of the RE syllabus supported by these plans eg all the following might be supported by an RE trail: Religion in the community; Pilgrimage; How does religion influence life?

Working in groups participants were encouraged to think about local possibilities.

Before we divided up Paul showed us an example of a trail - one in Lincoln and he took us through what has been included in it eg twenty places of worship in about a kilometre and a half, the site of a very old now nonexistent church, Jews' House, Chad Varah memorial. The variety shows how ridiculous it is to talk about Christians as one single uniform group. The same applies to other religious groups. This of course raises questions about what belongs to particular religions and what is outside of them.

Following group discussions over a buffet supper groups fed back on their ideas:

Slough:

- Central Slough: St Paul's, Salvation Army would make a good comparison. Very close. Salvation Army place used to be St Paul's Sunday School and there is a sign to say so. Both have old and new bits. Crematorium just up the road has a Muslim section. St Joseph's RC school. Statue of St Paul on the church. St Paul's Avenue - focus on who St Paul was.
- Wexham Rd: Sikh, Muslim and RC schools. Symbols on the schools. What on the outside of the school indicates its affiliation. Changing face of Slough. St Mary's Church on Church Road Wexham is very small - why?
- Friends Meeting House, Baptist Church, St Mary's in the Centre, Kingsway - café and bookshop; Muslim bookshop; Trinity URC; RC church by roundabout all close to one another.
- Chalvey - Methodist Church; YMCA; shops in Chalvey. Keel Drive Hindu Temple is close by but difficult to link by walking.
- Restaurants in Slough and area.
- Road names: Gilliot Road, Elliman Avenue, St Paul's Avenue, St John's
- Pubs: the Golden Cross
- Possibility of working in partnership with the museum
- Langley - three churches; alms houses; tythe court; grave yard Paul Nash is buried in St Mary's churchyard - wartime artist. St Mary's Church has a library that used to be a chained library - many books now in British Library. Still many books there in cupboards. They have open days. There is a family pew in there too which is slightly separate from the main church. The pub called the Red Lion used to be owned by the church. St Francis; Christ the Worker is a 1960s small church.
- Why are there three (?) mosques? Two? Gurdwaras? What does it tell us about diversity in these communities?

West Berkshire:

Wash Common and Newbury Centre which could be split into two, plus Greenham. Possibility, therefore, of four separate trails but they all link together. Too much to do as one really. Wash Common has huge historical significance as well - 2nd Battle of Newbury. Greenham includes peace camp garden. Probably also a base chapel. So some research still to do but many organisations locally will already have done their own research so need to think about how to access and coordinate.

Could be a linear walk or chronological focus. Potential for a huge amount of work. Recognition that the task meant all members were learning more than they already knew about their own community.

Reading:

- The Holybrook
- Abbey School famous for Jane Austin
- Forbury, jail - Oscar Wild.
- Abbey immolation of a monk. Convert to Judaism burnt. Jocelyn Palmer burnt for being a protestant.
- Friar St links with Greyfriars.
- Broad St - battle of Broad St (Protestant/Catholic).
- St Mary's, Baptist, Salvation Army, Friends Meeting House (Huntley and Palmers were Quakers), Synagogue, Mosque in Oxford Road, Buddhist Centre on A4 plus Cressingham Road, Hindu Temple. Album family tailors - Jewish history of Reading mainly from east end of London to spread the expertise. Asian food shops, halal shops etc - diversity and changing religious face of Reading.
- Oracle site used to have a workhouse. Archbishop Lord born in Broad Street.

Bracknell:

Thought about the villages around eg Binfield, Sandhurst, Crowthorne etc. Bracknell itself is a new town.

Sandhurst Chapel.

Difficult to get around all the places by walking because only a very few places are within walking distance of each other. So how about using Google to develop a virtual tour?

Newbold College - 7th Day Adventist. Change of use of EHP even - now very much used as a wedding venue so have improved the frontage. Maybe throw out a challenge to pupils - if you were designing a new town would you do it like Bracknell or something different?

Wokingham:

Starting from the Reading end - St Pauls church plus school, new RC Church (used to meet in a pub and then the Nationwide) Baptists; Market Place and Town Hall (wedding venue, so is council offices) war memorial, Market Place used by all churches on Good Friday for Christian Witness, Rose St. Methodist Church recently extended with lovely new window; All Saints which also has a new community hall also has cemetery, Friends meeting house, closed convent.

RBWM:

Divided Windsor/Eton from Maidenhead.

- Windsor: Park, Long Walk etc Windsor Castle, St George's Chapel - loads of English history. Knights of the Garter. Find out about individual Knights of the Garter. Guild Hall - marriages take place. Paintings of royals in the guild hall - discussion of link between state and church. Parish church near the station, café in the church and links with borough social services. Peskett St - charity shop - lots to explore here in motivated donations plus where the charities come from.
- Clewer village - Titanic graves.
- Trinity Church is military church for the town. Used to be a convent in Clewer village now a block of flats. Dairy converted to mosque.
- Maidenhead: start at bridge which used to be a toll bridge. Brunel's sounding arch - biggest brick build span in the world. Alms houses. Synagogue - used to be a centre

- The Ark is a pub...
- Mosque
- Chapel arches
- St Mary's the borough church - a very modern church
- Queens St and Kings St. Queen street used to have a Primitive Methodist church. Then joined with ? and sold on to Salvation Army who sold it on again
- War memorial
- URC listed building. Next to Friends meeting house.
- Methodist at top of High St.
- Gurdwara. Nearby is a house that used to be synagogue now used as a nursery.
- Jewish section in the cemetery plus Muslim section also.

Summing up:

Although these presentations highlighted the potential for a great deal of work there was no shortage of ideas and a clear indication that the areas served by our SACREs are rich with possibility for RE trails.

Close of conference and evaluation request:

Jo Fageant thanks Paul for inspiring his audience and closed the conference with a request that each SACRE complete at their next meeting the evaluation sheet which had been distributed. This asked for feedback not only on this Joint SACREs Conference but on a number of key issues relating to funding and continuance of the conference in future years; the establishment of Agreed Syllabus Conferences and approaches to the upcoming review of the share RE syllabus.

SACRE - FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

JUNE/JULY 2011

NOVEMBER 2011

UNALLOCATED ITEMS

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