

All Members of the Reading Standing
Advisory Council on Religious Education

Our Ref: n:\sacre\agendas\121121
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎ 0118 937 2332
e-mail: richard.woodford@reading.gov.uk

13 November 2012

Your contact is: **Richard Woodford - Committee Services**

NOTICE OF MEETING - READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION -
21 NOVEMBER 2012

A meeting of the Reading SACRE will be held on **Wednesday 21 November 2012 at 6.30 pm in
Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Reading.**

The Agenda for the meeting is set out below.

AGENDA

	<u>PAGE NO</u>
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	-
2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR	-
3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR	-
4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2012	1
5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES	-
6. NATIONAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATES INCLUDING: SUBJECT REVIEW, TEACHING CHRISTIANITY IN RE PROJECT, ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP	Verbal Report
7. SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE LONDON AND SOUTH EAST SACRES - FEEDBACK	5

CIVIC CENTRE EMERGENCY EVACUATION: Please familiarise yourself with the emergency evacuation procedures, which are displayed inside the Council's meeting rooms. If an alarm sounds, leave by the nearest fire exit quickly and calmly and assemble at the Hexagon sign, at the start of Queen's Walk. You will be advised when it is safe to re-enter the building

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------------|
| 8. | RE NETWORKS FEEDBACK AND AGREED SYLLABUS IMPLEMENTATION
PROGRESS (INCLUDING DISCOVERY LAUNCH) | Verbal Report |
| 9. | REVIEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND BUDGET - DRAFT NEW
DEVELOPMENT PLAN | 10 |
| 10. | DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2012 | 13 |
| 11. | DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS: | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday 4 February 2013 | |

READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINUTES -
20 JUNE 2012

Present:

Mustafa Chaudhary	Islam (Group A)
Maureen Meatcher	RC Diocese of Portsmouth (Group A)
Jo Fageant	Church of England (Group B)
Vera Bodman	NUT (Group C)
Bernard Eggleton	NASUWT (Group C)
Councillor Ballsdon	Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Councillor Eastwood	Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Councillor Ennis	Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Councillor O'Connell	Reading Borough Council (Group D)

Also in Attendance:

David McKnight	Berkshire Humanists
Bev Heslin	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Imran Tufail	Berkshire Islamic Information Group
Jan Lever	RE Consultant
Richard Woodford	Reading Borough Council

Apologies:

Margaret Elcock	Church of England (Group B)
Councillor McElligott	Reading Borough Council (Group D)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

AGREED: That the appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2012/2013 be deferred to the next meeting of the SACRE and Mustafa Chaudhary be appointed as Chair for this meeting.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND VACANCIES

The SACRE discussed the current membership and vacancies and agreed that potential candidates could be invited to future meetings as observers to help them decide if they wished to be nominated to fill one of the current vacancies. It was also agreed that all schools should be invited to send a representative to attend SACRE meetings and that academy schools could be represented by one person who could be appointed as a co-opted member. It was suggested that the Launch Conference for the new syllabus that would take place on 29 June 2012 could be used to attract representatives from schools to attend future SACRE meetings. It was also agreed that a letter asking for nominations should be written to faith groups and unions in Groups A and C where there were vacancies.

**READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINUTES -
20 JUNE 2012**

Jo Fageant reminded the SACRE that potential members would have to be nominated by the body they would represent before they could be appointed as members of the SACRE.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That representatives from the Borough's schools be invited to future SACRE meetings;
- (3) That a letter be sent to the faith groups and unions in Groups A and C where there were vacancies.

4. FEEDBACK FROM THE NASACRE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 23 MAY 2012

Jan Lever submitted a report providing the SACRE with feedback from the NASACRE Annual General Meeting that had taken place on 23 May 2012. A copy of a document that had been produced by the Association of RE Inspectors, Advisors and Consultants (AREIAC) entitled *Collective Worship Revisited* was attached to the report and a copy of a handout, *SACRE + Teachers of RE = Good Learning*, that had been part of a presentation given by Lat Blaylock, *RE Today*, and included good examples of children's learning of RE was also attached to the report.

Jan told the SACRE that the AGM had been given a summary of the findings from research that had been carried out with young people asking about their views on religion in school and research by Dan Moulin that had shown that pupils often felt that their own religions were stereotyped in RE and that RE lessons often failed to take account of diversity within religious traditions.

The AGM also heard that only thirty-six local authorities had RE advisors that were affiliated to AREIAC which impacted on the support for SACREs and continuous professional development for teachers. Even where there was a named person for RE most of these had RE as a small part of their portfolios.

On a more positive note an All Party Parliamentary Group had been set up for RE and was looking at examples of excellence in RE and although RE was being taught in uncertain and challenging times the RE community appeared to be strong and pulling together. An RE Quality Mark was also being piloted and it was suggested that this could be considered at a future meeting.

Finally, Jan told the SACRE that Jo Fageant had been appointed as secretary to the NASACRE.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

5. NEW AGREED SYLLABUS - PROGRESS AND LAUNCH CONFERENCE

Jan Lever told the SACRE that printing of the new syllabus would be completed on 21 June 2012 and would be presented in a ring-binder with a CD that would include the syllabus and all supporting documentation.

**READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINUTES -
20 JUNE 2012**

The Launch Conference would take place on Friday 29 June 2012 jointly with Wokingham and to date only 12 schools from Reading had confirmed that they would attend. All those who attended the launch would receive a copy of the syllabus and training on how to use it. Representatives from 22 schools in Wokingham had confirmed that they would be attending.

Jan asked that as many members of SACRE as possible should also attend the launch as it would provide an opportunity to form links with schools who regularly asked for representatives from faith groups to go into schools to talk to children about their faith.

A link to the syllabus review pages had been made available on the Council's web site.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That Jo Fageant and Jan Lever be thanked for their work on the new agreed syllabus.

6. RE TEACHER NETWORK MEETINGS - FEEDBACK

Jan Lever told the SACRE that two RE Teacher Network meetings had been held. The first meeting for secondary schools, which had been held jointly with Wokingham, had taken place on 8 May 2012 at Piggott School and had been well attended. The meeting had focused on the new syllabus and had provided good networking opportunities for all those who had attended.

The second meeting had been for primary schools in Reading only and had been held at Redlands Primary School. A representative from REInspired had been present but only one teacher from Redlands Primary School itself had attended. The next meeting would be held in September 2012 and Jan suggested that in order to encourage teachers to attend it could be held at a place of worship to which children could be taken by schools to learn about religions and faiths.

The network meetings were open to any teacher and SACRE members and aimed to bridge the gap between the SACRE and teachers and to help build relationships, share experience and knowledge and to raise concerns. The meetings would start at 4.00 pm and would last about an hour and a half.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

7. SPEAKER FOR NOVEMBER 2012 MEETING

Jan Lever told the SACRE that she had recently spoken to the REInspired Team about their model of working and about their success of bringing people from the Christian faith into schools; a way of working which might be transferrable to other faith groups. Jan suggested that the REInspired Team should be invited to the November 2012 meeting of the SACRE to talk about their work.

**READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINUTES -
20 JUNE 2012**

Representatives from REInspired would be present at the Launch Conference for the new syllabus on 29 June 2012 where they would be giving a short presentation and it was agreed that members of the SACRE talk to them at the launch about their work and arrange to see them 'in action' at a school prior to them being invited to a future meeting of SACRE.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That members of SACRE talk to the representatives from REInspired at the Launch Conference for the new syllabus on 29 June 2012 about their work and arrange to see them 'in action' at a school with a view to inviting them to a future meeting of SACRE.

8. DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Jan Lever tabled a copy of the updated SACRE Development Plan for 2012/13.

Jan explained that she had added three columns to the Development Plan that would be used to monitor progress of the actions in summer and autumn 2012 and spring 2013 and could be used to report progress at future SACRE meetings. Many of the actions had been on hold while work had been carried out on the new syllabus and could now be progressed.

The Plan covered actions up to the end of the 2012/13 financial year and from September 2012 onwards would need to include actions relating to the implementation and monitoring of the new syllabus.

Jo Fageant told the SACRE that some teachers in the six local authorities that had worked on the syllabus were interested in setting up networks to work on plans/actions, to share experience and to pool ideas relating to RE that would cut across the authorities and could be made available on the web.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

David McKnight informed the SACRE that the Reading Interfaith Group would be holding an event on 4 July 2012 at RISC, What Next for Israel and Palestine, which would provide an opportunity to work with OneVoice.

AGREED: That the position be noted

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED: That the next meeting be held at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 21 November 2012.

(The meeting started at 6:33pm and finished at 7.42 pm).

6th Annual General Meeting of the London and SE SACREs

6th November 2012

The Zoroastrian Centre, Harrow

“Excellent RE”

Group discussions

Current issues, successes and challenges at local level.

SACRE representatives recorded their discussions and submitted their thoughts for collation by NASACRE.

Update of RE nationally

John Keast: Chair of the Religious Education Council (REC).

REC is an umbrella body comprising all the major faith communities in England and Wales, professional associations, teachers etc. (59 member organisations). REC provides coalition of partners, a national voice for RE.

RE: National Facts

1. RE no longer required by statute in Free Schools and Academies: required by funding agreements only (Academies Act 2010).
2. Abolition of QCDA, no national adviser.
3. No government response to 2010 Ofsted long report.
4. 2010 reduction in PGCE RE places for trainee teachers - fewer RE teachers being trained than ever before.
5. Unilateral and unannounced removal of all national exemplars and Programmes of Study 2011.
6. Exclusion of Religious Studies from e.bacc 2011.
7. Abolition of GCSEs, leaving RS in limbo (2012) (no e.bacc/no GCSE).
8. Abolished bursaries for PGCE RE students. (RE, Drama, Citizenship and D&T no bursaries either).

“Dismantling of all national support and structures for RE by this government making RE an entirely local matter.”

RE: local developments

- ❖ Loss of local subject paragraph on RE in Ofsted inspection reports.
- ❖ Loss of RE adviser posts in LAs.
- ❖ Diminishing/no budget for SACREs.

- ❖ Local Agreed Syllabus reviews are increasingly not being carried out.
- ❖ Virtual disappearance of local CPD.
- ❖ Most secondary schools are now outside the remit of LA/SACRE.

Conclusion

- ❖ What's going on?
 - wholesale change in how we conceive RE
 - entirely local.
 - increasingly up to schools
 - role of faith communities.

Consequences

- ❖ fragmentation of RE curriculum
- ❖ fewer trained teachers
- ❖ decline in provision and quality of RE.

“The end of RE as we know it could be in sight.”

“Dismantling of RE as a national subject.”

“Most serious situation re: RE I have ever known.”

How is the REC responding?

- ❖ RE community coming together to take responsibility for RE in a new education world.

Strategic Plan (REC) 2011-15

- ❖ Curriculum Assessment and Qualifications
- ❖ Professional development
- ❖ PR
- ❖ Resources
- ❖ Governance

Representation to Government

- ❖ meetings with ministers
- ❖ letters to ministers
- ❖ other letters.

Curriculum Assessment and Quality

- ❖ Own review of RE
 - expert panel and report December 2012
 - working groups on rationale for RE, curriculum assessment and qualifications
 - Final report 2013
 - Paper on qualifications reform.

Phases 2 and 3 of RE review:

- ❖ working groups:
 - rationale for RE
 - what sort of curriculum do we need in RE?
 - how do we assess RE?

Summer 2012 REC Report on RE

- ❖ REC to set out its stall.

Qualifications reform paper: John Keast (REC website)

Public Relations

- ❖ Early Day Motion - called upon government to include RE in e.bacc.
- ❖ This led to APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) for RE.
- ❖ APPG to establish enquiry into teacher supply and support locally.
- ❖ Report Spring 2013.
- ❖ Rethink RE
 - Public campaign re: what is RE about?
 - Links with Headteachers, governors and trusts.
 - Links with other subjects in difficulties, e.g. arts world.

Professional development

- ❖ Professional Development portal.
- ❖ Resilience.
- ❖ Sacred spaces.
- ❖ RE Quality Mark.

Looking to have patrons, supporters, young ambassadors.

Governance

- ❖ expanded membership of REC
- ❖ more involved membership
- ❖ working together, smarter.

“dismantling of structures could lead to the diminishing quality of RE.”

Clash of education perspectives → Michael Grove - Secretary of State
→ established education community

Grove:

- school autonomy
- knowledge-based curriculum
- e.bacc will be the dominant factor.

How can SACREs support the REC work?

NASACRE represents the SACREs on the RE Council.

- Local SACREs can disseminate national issues to localities (schools etc.) and have a responsibility to do so.
- Relationship between local SACRE and its academies could be very beneficial. Can SACREs work with their academies? How?

RE Quality Mark (www.reqm.org)

Mary Myatt

“recognising outstanding learning in RE”

Bronze, Silver and Gold levels.

Schools apply through the website and an assessor goes to the school to validate.

The REQM can raise the profile of RE in school but also be a model for whole school improvement.

Purpose

- ❖ enable dissemination of quality RE through networking
- ❖ provide a structure and framework for dioceses and SACREs to map high quality RE
- ❖ address the findings of Transforming RE relating to enquiry-based learning.

REQM

5 sections

1. Learners and learning (learner questionnaire).
2. Teachers and teaching.
3. Curriculum.
4. Subject leadership.
5. Continuing professional development.

£475 for each school to be validated.

Award lasts for 3 years.

Groups took part in an activity regarding what to look for in quality RE.

REQM website is open access.

jane.brooke@reqm.org
mary.myatt@reqm.org

Bruce Gill, Chair of NASACRE

Updates

25,000 schools in the country, (3000 secondaries)

153 LAs

Bruce issued the attached paper “NASACRE updates” and a discussion followed regarding how NASACRE can best support SACREs and co-ordinate responses to consultations.

Jan Lever 6th November 2012

DRAFT Reading SACRE development plan 2013

Aim	Actions	Timescales	People Responsible	Cost			
A. To be a supportive and proactive SACRE enjoying full and well-informed membership.	1. Fill membership vacancies	End December 2012	SACRE Chair Committee Services				
	2. SACRE members attend termly SACRE meetings (3 per year) and, when possible, teacher termly network meetings and training events	Termly SACRE meetings Termly teacher network meetings Occasional training events	SACRE Chair/SACRE Adviser SACRE members SACRE Clerk	SACRE Adviser to prepare and attend x3 SACRE meetings a year @ £500 per term =£1500 SACRE Clerk to administer each meeting Oxford Diocese updates £50 x3 =£150 (shared with other SACREs)			
	3. Produce annual SACRE Report	Autumn Term 2013	SACRE Adviser and clerk	SACRE Adviser x1 day @£500			
	4. Review the development plan at each meeting and update for next year	At each SACRE meeting	SACRE Adviser and SACRE	SACRE Adviser time included in A2 above			
	5. ~Subscribe to NASACRE ~ Representation at annual NASACRE conference, NASACRE AGM and local SACRE events including the annual pan-Berkshire SACRE conference	Ongoing	SACRE members SACRE Adviser to organise Jo Fageant re pan-Berks event/s	Subscription £90 Conference/s and AGM budget £500 SACRE Adviser time if needs to be the SACRE representative x1 day shared with Wokingham £250			
	6. Members to present aspects of their faith/beliefs to SACRE to inform members	At selected SACRE meetings	SACRE members. Decide plan at SACRE meetings: Chair				

B. To support teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in their schools	1. Provide a termly Primary RE network meeting, 4-5.30, hosted by a school RE teachers and SACRE members to be invited	Once a term (3 per year) Autumn 2012: 25 Sept, LDS Church Spring 2013: 13 Feb Summer 2013: 16 May Autumn 2013: 1 Oct (Venues tba) Hosted by schools/places of worship	SACRE Adviser to plan, invite schools, administer, deliver and follow up x 3 networks a year.	SACRE Adviser x1.5 days @ £500 = £750			
	2. Provide, jointly with Wokingham SACRE, a termly secondary RE network meeting, 4-5.30, hosted by a school. RE teachers and SACRE members to be invited	Once a term (3 per year) Autumn 2012: 16 October, Piggott Forest Spring 2013: 6 March, Forest Summer 2013: 21 May, venue tba Autumn 2013: 15 October, venue tba Hosted by schools	SACRE to plan etc in liaison with Secondary Federation manager/LA	SACRE Adviser x1.5 days @ £500 = £750. Cost shared with Wokingham so Reading contributes £375			
	3. Provide a termly RE e.newsletter	Publish in the half-term when the network meetings don't happen	Jo Fageant to produce	£250 for JEF's time (shared with other SACREs)			
	C. To support the implementation of the revised Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for RE	1. Provide schools with a list of speakers from faith/belief communities for RE lessons	Summer Term 2013	SACRE Chair and SACRE members SACRE Adviser	SACRE Adviser x7 days @ £500, but cost shared with Wokingham so Reading contributes £1750		
2. Organise trip/s for		Spring/Summer terms					

	teachers to places of worship to support planning and teaching (CPD)	2013					
	3.Liaise with local places of worship re children's visits, appropriate to agreed syllabus	Spring/Summer terms 2013					

Reading SACRE budget request 2013

SACRE Adviser

15 days (9.5 days shared with Wokingham) making x5.5 days at £500 (£2750) and x9.5 days @ £250 (£2125)

Total £4875

Oxford Diocese

£400

Other costs

NASACRE etc £590

Total: £5865

Total budget request: £5865

DRAFT

**Reading Standing Advisory Council
for Religious Education**

Annual Report 2012

CONTENTS

	page
Chairman's foreword	3
1. Introduction	4
2. Religious Education	5
3. Collective Worship	8
4. Links with other agencies	8
5. SACRE arrangements	8
Appendices	
A Membership	9
B Attendance	12
C Development Plan 2011-12	13
D Examination Results	14

Chairman's Foreword

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Again, this year saw a stable membership although there remain vacancies for representatives from Buddhism, Sikhism, the NHAT, SHA and 2 Church of England representatives..

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

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

The SACRE's primary task this year has been to review the agreed syllabus, make amendments and publish the new syllabus. The new syllabus was ratified by the Council on June 5th and launched at a joint conference for Reading and Wokingham teachers on June 29th 2012.

The 2013 development plan focuses on supporting schools to fully implement the new syllabus.

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

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

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

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

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

The membership of SACRE can be seen at Appendix A.

1.2 Meetings

The 3 termly meetings were held (2 February, 30 May, 21 November 2012) plus extraordinary meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference throughout the year as the syllabus review progressed.

The attendance record is found in Appendix B

1.3 Developments in the SACRE

Rabbi Solomons and Mustafa Chaudhary continued to do sterling work as the Chair and Vice Chair, and continue to do so after re-election to these positions in November 2011. Richard Woodford continues to be a most efficient and reliable Clerk and Jan Lever is the consultant advising the SACRE on behalf of the Borough.

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

2 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2.1 The locally agreed syllabus for religious education

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.2 Standards in religious education

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

It is hoped that the renewed focus on SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development) opportunities in the latest Ofsted inspection framework, will support the monitoring process. However, the SACRE is of the mind that increasing its

contact with schools and teachers and thus enhancing relationships with them, will form the basis of the Development Plans and provide a means of further understanding the situation regarding RE in Reading schools, as well as how best the SACRE can support its continued improvement.

2.2.2 Examination results **To be added when confirmed early 2013**

Examination results by school can be seen at Appendix D.

2.2.3 GCSE examination results

2.2.4 A and A/S Level examination results

2.3 Methods of teaching religious education

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

2.4 Teaching Materials

2.4.1 Having seen a teaching resource produced for Bournemouth and Poole in 2011, Reading teachers showed great interest in having this set of medium-term planning adapted in line with the pan-Berkshire agreed syllabus. This has been completed and a launch event planned for November 21st 2012. Schools have the option of buying in this resource, with training if required, to support their planning and implementation process.

2.5 Continuing Professional Development

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

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

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

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

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

Similar termly networks for Primary RE subject leaders, each with a theme as a focus, have been run with attendance increasing each time. Those teachers in attendance show great commitment to do their best to ensure the new syllabus enhances children's RE

learning, and to support their colleagues to do the same. This is especially commendable in a climate of union restrictions regarding “after hours” work and ever-pressurised curriculum time.

Jo F to add any info re Diocese courses and Reading attendance

2.6 Complaints concerning RE

No complaints concerning RE have been received by the SACRE.

3 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

3.1 Monitoring

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

3.2 Determinations

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

3.3 Complaints concerning collective worship

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

4 LINKS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

4.1 The SACRE is affiliated to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and one of its Church of England representatives now serves as the Secretary.

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

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

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

5 SACRE ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 Professional and administrative support

5.1.1 The clerk to the SACRE is Richard Woodford.

5.1.2 The SACRE has good support from the Borough, from the Senior Adviser, Ian Muir. Jan Lever, independent consultant, continues to be contracted as the professional adviser.

5.2 Finance

The budget for 2011 – 2012 was set at £5100, to enable the completion of the agreed syllabus, the launch event, termly networks and consultant time to lead these.

APPENDIX A

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

1 MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

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

Group A	Christian denominations and other religions	
	The Free Churches	2
	The Roman Catholic Church	1
	Hinduism	1
	Islam	1
	Judaism	1
	Sikhism	1
	Buddhism	1
Group B	The Church of England	4
Group C	Associations representing teachers	
	NUT	1
	NAS/UWT	1
	ATL	1
	NAHT	1
	ASCL (formerly SHA)	1
Group D	The Authority	5
Total		22

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

2 TERM OF OFFICE

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

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

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

3 DUTIES AND POWERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 PROCEDURE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Membership 2012

Group A

Free Churches

Bev Heslin

Roman Catholic Church

Maureen Meatcher

Hinduism

Vacancy

Islam

Mustafa Chaudhary

Judaism

Rabbi Zvi Solomons

Sikhism

Vacancy

Buddhism

Vacancy

Group B The Church of England

Margaret Elcock

Jo Fageant

Vacancies x2

Group C Associations representing teachers

NUT

Vera Bodman

NAS/UWT

Bernard Eggletonl

ATL

Michael Freeman

NAHT

Vacancy

ASCL

Vacancy

Group D The Authority

Cllr Ballsdon

Cllr Ennis

Cllr McElligott

Cllr O'Connell

Cllr Eastwood

APPENDIX B

Reading SACRE Attendance 2012

Name	2 Feb 2012	30 May 2012	21 Nov 2012
Group A			
Group B			
Group C			
Group D			
WBC Officers			

APPENDIX C

