

All Members of the Reading Standing  
Advisory Council on Religious Education

Our Ref: n:\sacre\agendas\170228  
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18 February 2017

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

**NOTICE OF MEETING - READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION -  
28 FEBRUARY 2017**

A meeting of the Reading SACRE will be held on **Tuesday 28 February 2017 at 6.30 pm in Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading.**

The Agenda for the meeting is set out below.

**AGENDA**

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• Secondary Network Meeting	Verbal Report
8. BUDGET - UPDATE	Verbal Report

9.	CROSSING THE BRIDGES PROJECT - UPDATE	Verbal Report
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On location Day - 8 March 2017</li> <li>• Places of Worship Hosting Training</li> </ul>	
10.	AGREED SYLLABUS REVIEW	Verbal Report
11.	NATIONAL UPDATE	Verbal Report
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding Christianity - Update</li> <li>• The Big Deals Project</li> <li>• RE Online - Email a Believer</li> </ul>	
12.	DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS: TBC	-

### SACRE Membership 2016/17

<p>Bev Heslin  Judith Crimmins  Jeremy Peckham  <i>Vacancy</i>  Abubakar Banaras  Haji Khan  Rabbi Zvi Solomons  <i>Vacancy</i></p>	<p>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)</p>
<p>Mark Laynesmith (nominated 26/07/16)  Fiona Murray  <i>Vacancy</i>  Robin Sharples</p>	<p>Church of England (Group B)  Church of England (Group B)  Church of England (Group B)  Church of England (Group B)</p>
<p>Michael Freeman  Vera Bodman  Katie Livesey  Mary Mallia  Simone Tissot</p>	<p>ATL (Group C)  NUT (Group C)  Caversham Primary School  Addington Special School  Meadow Park Academy</p>
<p>Cllr Jones  Cllr Khan  Cllr Livingston  Cllr O'Connell  Cllr Robinson</p>	<p>Reading Borough Council (Group D)  Reading Borough Council (Group D)  Reading Borough Council (Group D)  Reading Borough Council (Group D)  Reading Borough Council (Group D)</p>
<p><i>Vacancy</i>  <i>(no longer any grant maintained schools in Reading)</i>  Emma Raven - Humanist  <i>Vacancy</i></p>	<p>Grant Maintained Schools (non-voting)   Co-opted member (non-voting)  Co-opted member (non-voting)</p>

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**Present:**

Rabbi Zvi Solomons (Chair)	Jewish Faith (Group A)
Abubakar Banaras	Islam (Group A)
Mark Laynesmith	Church of England (Group B nominee)
Vera Bodman	NUT (Group C)
Michael Freeman	ATL (Group C)
Councillor Khan	Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Councillor Livingston	Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Councillor Robinson	Reading Borough Council (Group D)

**Also in Attendance:**

Emma Raven	Humanist (Co-opted member)
Fiona Monger	Teacher - Hillside Primary School
David Rees	RE Consultant
Jan Lever	RE Consultant
Amy Bryan	Reading Borough Council

**Apologies:**

Jeremy Peckham	Buddhist (Group A)
Judith Crimmins	RC Diocese of Portsmouth (Group A)
Anne Cheeseman	Church of England (Group B)
Fiona Murray	Church of England (Group B)
Robin Sharples	Church of England (Group B)
Katie Livesey	Teacher Representative (Group C)
Councillor O'Connell	Reading Borough Council (Group D)

As the meeting was inquorate, it was agreed that each item on the agenda would be discussed and noted by the SACRE, and that any items requiring a decision would be deferred to the next meeting of the SACRE or agreed by email.

**1. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

Further to Minute 5 of the previous meeting, the Chair reported that he had met somebody who could help to identify a member of the Sikh faith to fill the Sikhism vacancy in Group A. The Chair also confirmed that the possibility of a job description for prospective SACRE members and consideration of how SACRE should approach its responsibilities regarding Collective Worship would be considered at the next meeting.

Further to Minutes 7 of the previous meeting, Jan Lever reported that she would be sending out a flyer advertising Network meetings.

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3. SACRE ACTION PLAN - UPDATE AND FEEDBACK

Jan Lever submitted a copy of the SACRE Action Plan for April 2016-March 2017. Jan explained that section A of the plan set out the statutory duties and sections B and C were not statutory and could be changed depending on the requirements of teachers. Jan reported that next year would be a review of the agreed syllabus and all actions in section A of the action plan were on target.

(a) Pan Berkshire Hub Meeting - 15 September 2016

Jan Lever submitted a copy of the minutes for the Pan Berkshire Hub meeting that had taken place on 15 September 2016. The meeting had discussed a number of issues including the draft programme for the Hub Conference which was due to take place on 28 September 2016, the Crossing the Bridges Project, the Westhill/NASACRE Award, the Accord Inclusivity Award and the draft timescale for the syllabus review. The meeting had also considered a new educational resource that had been written by Clive Lawton and supported by the Board of Deputies of British Jews in the form of a guide for those teaching Judaism in GCSE Religious Studies. Jan also reported that the next Hub meetings would be held on 10 January and 25 April 2017.

(b) Primary Network Meeting - 4 October 2016

David Rees submitted a copy of the minutes for the Primary Network meeting that had taken place on 4 October 2016. The meeting had started by considering what was going well and any current causes of concern. The meeting had then received updates on the Crossing the Bridges Project, the NATRE survey of Primary RE Leaders, the REC Code of Conduct, the REC Media Toolkit and the REQM Primary School Questionnaire.

It was suggested that the information regarding generating local media coverage could be circulated to the SACRE.

(c) Secondary Network Meeting - 27 September 2016

David Rees submitted a copy of the minutes for the Secondary Network Meeting that had taken place on 27 September 2016. The first item that had been considered was the purpose of the meeting itself and the meeting had then considered a number of information items, the new specifications for GCSE and visits and visitors.

It was noted that this meeting had been well attended with representatives of five different secondary schools present. Only one meeting had been scheduled for the year and as the first meeting was so positive it was thought that it would be good to follow it up with a second meeting later in the year.

(d) Primary RE Subject Leader Training - 12 October 2016

Jan Lever provided the SACRE with a link to the Powerpoint Presentation which been used at the Primary RE Subject Leader Training on 12 October 2016. The

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training had included a recap of the enquiry approach and teaching and learning ideas in relation to Judaism and Islam.

(e) Further Support for Subject Leaders

This item was not considered.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

4. BUDGET - UPDATE

This item was not considered at the meeting.

5. CROSSING THE BRIDGES PROJECT

Jan Lever submitted a copy of the Crossing the Bridges Project Action Plan for April 2016 to March 2017.

(a) Westhill/NASACRE Award - On Location Day 8 March 2016

Jan Lever informed the SACRE that the award had enabled the project to be taken into the second year. Jan also reported that part of the award was to have project pages on the Westhill website and as of 24 November 2016 the pages were live and could be accessed at [www.westhillendowment.org/crossing-the-bridges-project](http://www.westhillendowment.org/crossing-the-bridges-project). Through this link there was also access to the booking forms for school visits to places of worship.

(b) Conference 28 September 2016 - Feedback

Jan Lever submitted a copy of minutes for the Phase Two Launch Conference for the six Pan-Berkshire SACREs that had taken place on 28 September 2016. The Conference had been designed to inform about the first phase of the Crossing the Bridges Project 2015-16 and to seek further engagement to take the project to the next level in the coming year.

(c) Directory

Jan Lever reported that part of phase 2 of the project was to increase the directory and requested that anyone with contacts in a particular faith let her know so they could approach them.

(d) Places of Worship - Hosts Training

Jan Lever submitted a copy of a flier that had been sent to schools inviting them to take part in two training sessions for hosts and visitors to schools as part of the Crossing the Bridges Project. A training session had taken place on 14 November 2016, of which 15 people had attended, and the flier set out the provisional programme for each of the training days as follows:

- Discussion on the purpose of RE;
- Exploration of the Locally Agreed Syllabus and the enquiry method of teaching;

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- Examination of the hub materials;
- Opportunity to use the pupil materials in the venue;
- Discussion of the practicalities of hosting trips/visiting schools.

The training session scheduled for 17 November 2016 had been postponed until next term.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

## 6. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

Jan Lever submitted a draft copy of the Annual Report September 2015 - July 2016. The draft report had been compiled by Jan and included a foreword by the Chair and set out the context for 2015/16. The report also set out the work of the SACRE in 2015/16 including the role of the Council, teacher network meetings, RE Subject Leader training, the Pan-Berkshire SACRE hub, Crossing the Bridges Project - Phase 1 and would include a section setting out the RE GCSE examination results for summer 2016.

Jan asked that the SACRE submit any comments on the draft annual report to her by next week. The Chair requested that when finalised the annual report be sent to the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

AGREED:

- (1) That Jan Lever be thanked for her work on the draft SACRE Annual Report 2015/16;
- (2) That any comments on the draft annual report be submitted to Jan Lever by Monday 28 November.

## 7. NATIONAL UPDATES

David Rees gave an update on the Understanding Christianity Project, for which he would be attending training on 29 November 2016 in Salisbury. The project included both a learning resource and a resource for teachers and would help in the delivery of teaching Christianity.

The Chair reported that Clive Lawton had written a resource for Judaism entitled 'Judaism GCSE Religious Studies - The Definitive Resource'.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

The SACRE recorded its thanks to Jan for her work with the SACRE.

## 9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 28 February 2017.

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(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 8.05 pm).

## The SACRE Clerk

- (i) Arrange, attend and clerk meetings of the SACRE.
- (ii) Produce and circulate minutes and agendas of the SACRE in a timely manner in accordance with the LA's standard format.
- (iii) Ensure that all papers from working parties or consultants are circulated to SACRE members in advance of meetings electronically and where necessary printed.
- (iv) Advise on dates of meetings, particularly in relation to religious holidays or other Council meetings, which may clash and affect quoracy.
- (v) Remind and chase members/other attendees about reports for meetings and circulation deadlines.
- (vi) Circulate additional papers or conference invitations e.g. from government departments, Council departments, the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE), the RE Council and Ofsted as appropriate.
- (vii) Alert the Chair and RE Professional Adviser to any communications from these and similar bodies.
- (viii) Ensure that regular communications such as the NASACRE updates are circulated to members.
- (ix) Respond to queries, alerting the Chair and Advisor when necessary, for example FOI requests.
- (x) Maintain the SACRE membership list, keeping it up to date, chasing members whose attendance is poor and identifying any membership issues for the attention of the Chair, RE Professional Advisor and LA Officers.
- (xi) Assist in the production and circulation of the Annual Report; issue Welcome/Induction Packs for new members and ensure that they have sufficient information to prepare them for their first meeting.
- (xii) Maintain a filing system (electronic and sometimes paper) of relevant and up to date information.
- (xiii) Ensure that all SACRE publications/advice are circulated to the relevant bodies.
- (xiv) Be responsible for the passing on for payment, invoices relating to SACRE work.



## Pan- Berkshire SACRE Hub Meeting

Tuesday 10th Jan, 2017

Wokingham Borough Council, Shute End, Wokingham

Present

Jan Lever - Chair

Anne Andrews - Advisor to Bracknell forest and Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Stephen Vegh - Wokingham

Beth Rowland - Wokingham

Michael Freeman - Reading

Karen Butler - RBWM

Mary Harwood - West Berkshire

Catherine Jinkerson- Wokingham

David Rees - Advisor to Reading

(Colours denote who is responsible for actions...see below)

Apologies:

Jo Fageant, Slough, (West Berks)

Zvi Solomons, Reading

Julie Siddiqui, Slough

Tracey Williams, Bracknell Forest

Madeline Diver, Bracknell Forest

### Minutes and issues arising

- Point was raised concerning the training of new SACRE members - previous minutes stated that training would be up to each SACRE - discussion ensued concerning developing materials for new members, setting up a buddying system with mentors to help with the induction process - system would need to incur no costs and be consistent across the 6 SACREs. AA said she would put materials/pack together as she was doing something similar for the Diocese.
  - **Request to put the training of new members on the next agenda**
  - Suggestion - to run an induction/refresher session after the next Hub meeting on 25th April - timing could be 5.30-7pm. JL will check to see if the council chamber could be used for this.
  - Michael F stated that the new GCSE book on Judaism by Clive Lawton was excellent both as a 'personal tool and teaching resource'
1. Feedback
    - Crossing the Bridges- conference on sept 28th very successful - now we need to produce some materials for a case study - the Q&A session with faith leaders was a 'sparky and enjoyable exchange'
    - Record a big 'thank you' to all who came, contributed and planned the event.
  2. SACRE feedback - SV mentioned the forms on the Crossing the Bridges project are interactive PDFs and hence are not easy to edit. A request was made for them to be in word format as you can still lock down the pre-populated boxes but can still allow the empty boxes to be populated. JL said she would feed this back to the graphics team. This would help CJ when trying to obtain information for the places of worship directory.

3. A. Directory - CJ has 7 returns and has been chasing others. Many places use a lot of volunteers to help so filling in forms is not a quick process.
  - The Wokingham RE trail - is there a weblink?
  - In Maidenhead the *churches together* group have put together a mini directory which is very useful but not available online. Is there a plan to make it electronic? CJ to investigate.
  - Most feedback is coming from Maidenhead/ Slough and Stoke Poges. - these areas are looking the most likely to be used in the CPD day (March 8<sup>th</sup>).
  - Enquiries were made as to whether other areas like Ascot, Datchet or West Berks had been involved. CJ has received no contact from these and AA stated that efforts to engage them previously had proved challenging.
  - Interfaith Forum - personal contact is needed - the Westhill Award had some admin. time available.
  - Non- Christian places had showed more interest up to this point.
  - Universities could be involved in coming into schools
- B. Crossing the Bridges CPD day
  - The next day is planned for Weds March 8th DR & CJ organising this. The idea is to take a group of teachers to 4 places of worship to examine the buildings, talk to faith community members and develop links with a view to arranging more focussed visits to these places. The learning would be at a deeper level than previously. DR would take photographs on the day and turn these into power points to be circulated to and used in schools. CJ is finalising the details of the day and a flyer will need to be sent out soon so that people have time to book. Teachers will use the Crossing the Bridges materials and provide examples for the web pages and to share with schools.
  - Transport could be an issue - there was a suggestion to engage with the business community to provide some finance to help this happen.
  - The host training event was well attended - 16 came and the feedback was excellent. There will be another one on Feb 23rd at the Wokingham Baptist Church from 1-4pm. Anne A to lead. JL to do admin.
  - The Crossing the Bridges templates are available free on various websites. We hope to encourage some samples of work so a case study can be produced. Network meetings will again inform of the availability and also of the next CPD day in March.
  - Follow up conference event - JL to check availability of the same venue for the week beginning 25th September- this would be held to disseminate information on the second phase.
4. Agreed Syllabus Conference
  - The review process will start later in the year - there is a draft action plan and a need for each SACRE to commit funds to the process. £1700 is the same amount as contributed to Hub and Crossing the Bridges this year and this will enable the review to happen and be managed. MF said he had contacted Dan Neal and RBC can contribute £2700. RBWM had discussed and agreed the sum, an invoice needs to be drafted. Bracknell said it would be from next year's budget. W Berks 'should be OK'. Wokingham has agreed the amount and Slough is confident it will also gain this funding.
  - The Hub will be the Steering Group for the syllabus review.
  - Communication channels – each SACRE to explore best communication channels to reach schools and stakeholders.
  - Jan will simplify the ASC draft plan for SACREs to look at at Summer term round of SACRE meetings
  - SV - life after levels will be the biggest challenge - exemplifications will be needed.
  - Consultation - schools input will be sought.

- AOB - MF What is the job description of the SACRE clerk? Can this be put on the agenda for next time?

Next meeting 4.15 on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at WBC, Shute End, RG40 1BN

Autumn term meeting: Tuesday 12th September 2017 4.15-6pm Venue tbc

Annual pan-Berkshire SACRE conference w/c 25 September 2017, details tba (This will celebrate and review the achievements of the Crossing the Bridges Project.

Comments and enquiries to Hub Manager:

Jan Lever

[jan@janlevergroup.com](mailto:jan@janlevergroup.com)

## Reading SACRE

### Primary network

Led by: David Rees

Wednesday February 8<sup>th</sup> 2017

Venue: Redlands school

#### Issues and concerns

- Withdrawal from RE lessons
  - concerns were raised as in one school there is an ongoing situation with some parents concerning withdrawing their children from RE – the issue for the teacher is that parents are trying to select what RE they do and so will allow the children in some sessions but not in others – this is confusing for the children.
  - One teacher stated that she was suggesting the child is in or out and hopes by this policy they are more likely to be allowed in.
  - It is also the case that the parent is withdrawing a child from RE in one year group and yet had allowed an older sibling to do exactly the same RE the year before! Meetings with the parents are ongoing
- Assessment – using Discovery RE and waiting for the new materials
- Subject knowledge and experience – a desire to not cause offence especially with teachers with gaps in RE knowledge

#### Main items

- **NATRE national survey of primary schools**
  - The findings were shared and briefly discussed as the PowerPoint will be circulated afterwards the findings centred on
    - Training and the lack of opportunity
    - Subject support,
    - available budget and
    - time allocation for RE
- **Understanding Christianity**
  - Recap - A Concept based Scheme of work focusing on Christian texts and theological literacy, produced by Church of England and Christian trusts
  - Concepts include Creation, The Fall, Incarnation, Salvation, Gospel, People of God, The Kingdom of God...
  - The new resource has been distributed during training organised through the Dioceses– some people have already been on the training and received the materials – more training is to be arranged
  - Is it compulsory for Church schools? – although it isn't compulsory, it is likely that when inspected by SIAMS questions may be raised in the future as to why it isn't being used.
  - Does it fit with Discovery RE? – there are documents available that show how these 2 schemes can work together – these are available from the following link  
<http://discoveryschemeofwork.com/using-discovery-re-and-understanding-christianity-together/>
- **Discovery RE version 3**
  - The new version of Discovery RE will be available in March – DR shared an example of one of the units and explained about the secure weblink which will be sent. The new assessment information will tie in with the recent national developments in RE e.g. life after levels whilst still being mindful of the requirements of locally agreed syllabi
- **Crossing the Bridges**
  - DR shared the resource again and asked if some examples could be produced if a trip to a place of worship was undertaken. Trying to use the place of worship in a more focussed way would help show greater depth of learning as well as providing evidence for assessment. The resources can be downloaded free from <http://discoveryschemeofwork.com/crossing-the-bridges/>

- Reading is well served by places of worship and faith communities so it would be helpful if more schools could use the materials and share resources with others – feeding back to the places of worship will also help them tailor visit experiences more to the context of the syllabus and the learning objectives.
- **Agreed syllabus review**
  - This was just a quick point about the upcoming syllabus review and the opportunity to feedback about the existing syllabus – would much need to be changed? Content? Assessments? – opportunities for greater discussion will come as the process begins later in 2017. It will, again, be a pan Berkshire partnership.

Minutes will be distributed and the venue for the next meeting will be circulated nearer the time

#### **Next meeting**

- Summer term – Wednesday 17<sup>TH</sup> May 2017 at Thameside Primary School RG4 8DB 4-5.30pm

Meeting closed 5.30pm