

Date of issue: Wednesday 25th October 2023

MEETING	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths Ashpreet Singh Nainu (Chair), Sue Elbrow, Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan, Waqar Bhatti, Shujah Hamid, Momade Faizal, Karen Appleby and Hardip Singh Sohal Committee 2 – Church of England Rev Gordon Briggs, Christine Isles and Andrea Sparrow Committee 3 – Teachers (Representing Primary, Secondary & Special Schools) Primary - Munsoor Malik and Priya Lamba Secondary - Ian Sharpe, Nagina Ali and Andrew Ramsey Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA Councillors E Ahmed (Vice-Chair), Akram, Instone, Khawar, Mohindra and Naveed Humanist Non-Voting Co-opted Member Robin Launder
DATE AND TIME:	THURSDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER, 2023 AT 4.30 PM
VENUE:	COUNCIL CHAMBER - OBSERVATORY HOUSE, 25 WINDSOR ROAD, SL1 2EL
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	NADIA WILLIAMS 07749 709 961

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



STEPHEN BROWN
Chief Executive



AGENDA

PART I

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
	Apologies for absence.	
1.	Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 4 July 2023	1 - 4
2.	Matters Arising	
3.	Review of SACRE Membership Report	5 - 8
4.	Minutes of the Joint Syllabus Conference meeting held on 18 July 2023	9 - 12
5.	SACRE Membership Update	-
6.	SACRE Action Plan 2023/24 - Updated October 2023	13 - 14
7.	SACRE Finance Update	To Follow
8.	Draft SACRE Annual Report 2022-23	To Follow
9.	Autumn RE Newsletter 2023 - To Note	15 - 20
10.	SACRE Membership News (An update from members regarding activities undertaken since the last SACRE meeting)	-
11.	Equality and Diversity - Resources	-
12.	SACRE Members' Attendance Record	21 - 22
13.	Information Item - To Note	
	Latest news and updates from NASACRE - SACRE Briefing Issue 36: SACRE briefing 36 (mailchi.mp)	
14.	Date of Next Meeting: 6 March 2024	

Press and Public

Attendance and accessibility: You are welcome to attend this meeting, which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before any items in the Part II agenda are considered. For those hard of hearing an Induction Loop System is available in the Council Chamber.

Webcasting and recording: The public part of the meeting will be filmed by the Council for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website. The footage will remain on our website for 12 months. A copy of the recording will also be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy. By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

In addition, the law allows members of the public to take photographs, film, audio-record or tweet the proceedings at public meetings. Anyone proposing to do so is requested to advise the Democratic Services Officer before the start of the meeting. Filming or recording must be overt and persons filming should not move around the meeting room whilst filming nor should they obstruct proceedings or the public from viewing the meeting. The use of flash photography, additional lighting or any non-hand held devices, including tripods, will not be allowed unless this has been discussed with the Democratic Services Officer.

Emergency procedures: The fire alarm is a continuous siren. If the alarm sounds Immediately vacate the premises by the nearest available exit at either the front or rear of the Chamber and proceed to the assembly point: The pavement of the service road outside of Westminster House, 31 Windsor Road.

This page is intentionally left blank

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Tuesday, 4th July, 2023.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Ashpreet Singh Nainu (Chair), Sue Elbrow, Shujah Hamid, Momade Faizal, Karen Appleby and Hardip Singh Sohal (in-part)

Committee 2 – Church of England

Christine Isles and Andrea Sparrow

Committee 3 – Teachers (Representing Primary, Secondary & Special Schools)

Priya Lamba – Primary

Nagina Ali – Secondary

Committee 4 – Representatives of the Council

Councillors E Ahmed, Akram, Instone, Khawar, Mohindra and Naveed

Apologies for Absence:- Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan, Rev Gordon Briggs, Karen Appleby, and Ian Sharpe

PART 1

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

There were two nominations of chairs. Ashpreet Singh Nainu was nominated as chair by Christine Isles and seconded by Momade Faizal. Councillor (Cllr) Kharwar nominated himself and was seconded by Cllr Mohindra.

Following breakout for separate group discussions, Cllr Khawar withdrew his nomination and Ashpreet Singh Nainu was duly elected as Chair for 2023 - 2024 municipal year.

Cllr E Ahmed was nominated as Vice-Chair by Cllr Khawar and seconded by Cllr Mohindra.

There were no other nominations.

Cllr E Ahmed was duly elected as Vice-Chair for 2023-2024 municipal year.

Resolved that:

- i) Ashpreet Singh Nainu be elected as Chair for the 2023-24 municipal year.
- ii) Cllr Ahmed be elected as Vice-Chair for 2023-24 municipal year.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 04.07.23

2. Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education Terms of Reference - To Note

Resolved – That the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Terms of Reference be noted.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 15 March 2023

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

In relation to Minute 29 – Finance Update, it was clarified that Slough SACRE contributed £900 annually towards the Pan-Berkshire Hub, which was made up of six unitary authority SACREs. The Hub engaged in various projects, such as the production of the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus.

5. Landmark High Court win for humanist: judge rules he cannot be excluded from local RE Committee

The Monitoring Officer, Governance & Scrutiny noted the ongoing discussion regarding a request for the review of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) membership, to enable a Humanist representative to have voting rights.

A recent High Court ruling relating to Kent County Council (KCC), which refused to allow a humanist representative to become a member of its SACRE, was cited to support the request.

The monitoring officer clarified that the 1996 legislation required Group A to *'represent such Christian denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions as, in the opinion of the authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area'*.

It was also clarified that a Humanist representative had been appointed to the Slough SACRE, as a Co-opted member and as such, had not been refused membership on SACRE. In addition, membership of Group A was required to represent the principal faiths and beliefs of the local communities.

Any review of the SACRE membership would need to be based on the 2021 Census, which in the breakdown of religions for Slough, showed 6 people who identified as Humanists.

During discussion, the Humanist representative expressed the view that the numbers did not give a fair reflection of the number of Humanists in Slough, as many people did not identify as such. He questioned the breakdown figure, and contended that the judgement from the Court ruling relating to KCC was that it was 'unlawful' for KCC to refuse Steve Brown's membership on SACRE. He believed that it was discriminatory to exclude Humanist from SACRE and pointed out that Humanism was part of the non-religious world

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 04.07.23

views, which was on the RE Syllabus, and that the issue predominately lay in the Group A category.

It was reiterated that Group A, needed to represent the principal religious traditions of the Borough. A full report would be brought to the next meeting for the SACRE to review and decide, as to whether to make recommendation for the Council to review the SACRE Terms of Reference (TOR) and make recommended changes to Category A, if agreed.

The SACRE Professional Adviser, also an adviser to five other SACREs, highlighted that many other SACREs were starting to allow Humanist representatives under Group A. He added that non-religious world views should be included in this category, particularly centring on the issue of being inclusive. The term 'humanism' he believed was new to many, and therefore a significant number of people were likely not to have identified as such.

Members were reminded that the Humanist representative had been a Co-opted member for over two years, had contributed to the Slough SACRE, and therefore couldn't be considered as being discriminatory.

Resolved that:

- a) The update be noted
- b) A report on the review of SACRE Terms of Reference and membership of Category A, following the 2021 Census to be reported to the next meeting, and to enable the SACRE to consider the request for representative membership to include Humanism.

6. SACRE Membership Update

This item was considered together with item 6.

7. SACRE Action Plan 2023-24 To June 2023

The SACRE Professional Adviser provided a brief review of the 2023-24 Slough SACRE Action Plan up to June 2023 period. He outlined the 3 areas set out in the Action Plan which included:

- A) Core Business – To be a supportive and proactive SACRE enjoying full and well informed membership. This area contained for instance, annual subscription to NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education), which worked to support, strengthen and promote the work of local SACREs and represented their interests nationally. NASACRE also provided training, open to SACRE members.
- B) To support teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in schools. This included the termly network meetings to provide support to new and current RE (Religious Education) teachers.
- C) To support on-going work of the Pan-Berkshire Hub.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 04.07.23

Resolved – That the Slough SACRE Action Plan be noted.

8. Spring RE Newsletter 2023 - To Note

Members noted the SACRE RE Newsletter for spring 2023. The deadline for items to be submitted for inclusion in the autumn 2023 newsletter was confirmed as end of August 2023.

Resolved – That the SACRE Spring RE Newsletter 2023 be noted.

9. Equality and Diversity - Resources

The SACRE Adviser reported that resources details on Islam had been requested from Learn Direct, which would be included in the SACRE newsletter. It was noted that RE resources continued to be promoted during school visits.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

10. SACRE Membership News (An update from members regarding activities undertaken since the last SACRE meeting)

Robin Launder notified members of The Story Tent website, where online teaching materials on religion and worldviews could be accessed by primary school teachers.

Momade Faizal reported that schools were being invited and were visiting places of worship. The SACRE Adviser would be notified of places that schools had visited, to be shared with teachers.

Resolved – That the SACRE Membership News Update be noted.

11. Information Item - To Note: Latest news and updates from NASACRE - SACRE Briefing Issue 35

Resolved – That the latest news and updates from NASACRE - SACRE Briefing Issue 35 be noted.

12. Date of Next Meeting: 2 November 2023

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 2 November 2023.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.30 pm and closed at 6.15 pm)

Slough Borough Council

Report To:	Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
Date:	2 November 2023
Subject:	Review of the SACRE Membership
Chief Officer:	Stephen Taylor, Monitoring Officer, Governance & Scrutiny
Contact Officer:	Vani Chenganna, Senior Lawyer
Ward(s):	All
Exempt:	NO
Appendices:	

1. Summary and Recommendations

- 1.1 This report considers whether a recommendation should be made to the Council for a representative with no religious belief, such as a humanist, to be appointed to join Committee 1, in the light of a recent High Court decision.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked for its views on whether Council should be asked to appoint a humanist to join Committee 1 as a full voting member.

Reason:

To give SACRE the opportunity to consider the matters set out in the report following previous discussions and the recent High Court decision.

Commissioner Review

[Sign off from the Commissioner(s) is required for all reports and any comments are to be recorded in the report (note – commissioners sign off is not normally needed for reports to Planning, Licensing, Slough Wellbeing Board, SACRE and Corporate Parenting Panel. Please check with the democratic services officer). Commissioners must have reports one week before agenda publication to sign off. Legal and finance must have signed off reports before being sent to Commissioners.]

2. Report**Background**

- 2.1 There were discussions at previous meetings on 3 March 2023 and 17 June 2023 as to whether there was any scope to propose the expansion of Committee 1 in order to include representatives from non-religious groups and if so, whether the Terms of Reference needed to be amended and whether a report needed to be sent to the Council for approval.

2.2 According to the Terms of Reference, Committee 1 is comprised of 12 members who represent the following faith groups:

- The Free Churches (1)
- The Black Free Churches (1)
- The Roman Catholic Church (1)
- Hinduism (1)
- Islam (4)
- Judaism (1)
- Sikhism (2)
- Baha'is (1)

2.3 According to the 2021 Census, the denominations and the number of adherents in Slough were as follows:

Based on the 2021 Census for Slough	
Denominations	Adherents
Christian	50,664
Muslim	46,661
No religion	20,726
Sikh	17,985
Hindu	12,343
Buddhist	776
Other religion	716
Baha	8
Jewish	85
Humanist	6

2.4 As stated above, 6 residents consider themselves to be humanists.

2.5 A humanist is already a co-opted member who participates in discussions.

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 *Legal Framework*

3.2 The Education Act 1996, s 390(4) requires that the membership of SACRE must consist of 4 groups as follows:

- Group A must include representatives from Christian denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions which appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area.
- Group B must include representatives of the Church of England
- Group C must include representative of an association of teachers.
- Group D must include representatives from the local authority.

The number of representative members should be based on the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in Slough area¹.

- 3.3 The SACRE may also include co-opted members in line with the Education Act 1996 s 390(3) and (7) but they have no voting rights. Each representative group has a single vote.
- 3.4 The issue whether other religions include non-religious beliefs was considered by the High Court on 26 May 2023 in the case of **Bowen v Kent County Council**². The High Court held that it is for each local authority to consider whether the beliefs attain a certain level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance so as to merit consideration at all, irrespective of whether the belief system is religious or non-religious. Humanism is well recognised as a belief which should be afforded equal treatment. Whilst religious education will remain predominantly based on religion rather than non-religious beliefs, the local authority needs to ensure that the number of non-religious belief holders is reflective of the extent of the non-religious belief content required within the syllabus. It does not need to be rigidly dictated by the proportion of people with a particular non-religious belief in the local area. It does not follow that any and every non-religious belief need to be treated similarly and it is ultimately for the local authority to exercise its discretion when determining who to appoint to ensure consistency with the efficient discharge of the group's functions.
- 3.5 The High Court, thus, held that a decision not to appoint a person simply because they hold non-religious beliefs is likely to be discriminatory and unlawful in circumstances where the data shows that the number of residents holding a particular non-religious belief is high and the non-religious is already included in the syllabus. It is understood that humanism is already included in 91% of syllabuses.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 A person of no-religion or a humanist will not qualify to join Committee 1 as of right, in the light of the High Court judgment, but the Council is not obliged to approve the appointment of a humanist to join Committee 1 simply because they are a humanist. The Council is entitled to take into account the relative numbers of humanists in the Borough and may also wish to look at whether to encourage membership from other denominations in the Borough who may have a greater representation in the Borough.
- 4.2 It was previously proposed that Committee 1 should be widened to include beliefs on the basis that this would cover non-religious beliefs. Consideration needs to be given to the extent to which the syllabus includes non-religious content and whether it is appropriate to include a humanist to Committee 1 to ensure consistency with the efficient discharge of the group's functions.
- 4.3 If a decision is made to appoint a humanist to join Committee 1, the Terms of Reference will need to be amended in the first instance and a report must be sent to the Council for approval to amend the Terms of Reference and to approve the appointment of the humanist to Committee 1.

5. Background Papers None.

¹ Education Act 1996, s 390(6).

² [2023] EWHC 1261 (Admin)

This page is intentionally left blank

Joint Syllabus Conference (1)

18 July 2023 1600-1730

Advisers present: Anne Andrews, Angela Hill, David Rees

Members present: Karen Butler (RBWM), Madeline Diver (BF), Sue Elbrow (S), Christine Isles (S), Ashpreet Singh (S), David Taylor (WB), Stephen Vegh(W)

Apologies: Mark Laynesmith (R)

1. The NASACRE slides about Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) were shared. AA drew attention to the fact that the ASC is responsible only for creating the syllabus, which needs to be agreed by all parties. The ASC is a legal identity, which the LA must fund and support. The SACRE hub (renamed the Joint Syllabus Conference or JSC) does not have any legal status, so all decisions must be passed back to each LA's ASC for approval. Each committee of each ASC must agree the final product before it can be published. The slides in PDF format are attached to the email accompanying these notes.
2. Each SACRE was asked if they had any more feedback on the Agreed Syllabus comparison exercise. Bracknell, Wokingham and Windsor and Maidenhead had submitted returns – the other SACREs had yet to do so. There was a degree of synergy in the responses, with a preference for more detail than the existing syllabus, but not too much prescription. Some SACREs are keener than others to see something radical, so there will need to be a balance sought between evolution and revolution in terms of content and presentation. In some of the responses there was clearly some misunderstanding among SACRE members about the role of an Agreed Syllabus, and so some notes will need to be produced to ensure that SACRE members and teachers know what a syllabus should do, and how that is different to a scheme of work. This is complicated by the fact that more syllabuses are including units of work, which begin to blur the lines.
3. Feedback from the Christian Conversation group was that they were keen to see Christianity covered through the 'Big Story' of the Bible, a bit like it is in Understanding Christianity. Discussion was had about the implications of this, as the model does not transfer well to all the other religious and non-religious tradition to be covered. There was also concern that as many schools have not purchased Understanding Christianity, a resource that does focus on the big story, they would be disadvantaged. A syllabus should not really promote any one resource, though in the non-statutory parts it may suggest or recommend. It was also suggested that the 'big story' idea could be included in a non-statutory part of the syllabus.

4. A date was then set for the next meeting: Monday 16 October at 1600. This is timed to be before most of the autumn term SACRE meetings. This will be an online meeting as usual.
5. The draft syllabus suggestions that AA had written was then presented, with an explanation of the process of creation. It started with the current syllabus, identifying the key themes and concepts which the syllabus covers. Using these concepts and themes, questions have been created for Christianity, and at the moment, generically for the other worldviews to be covered. There is no suggestions that these are the final questions, and the proposal has been made and generally accepted that each worldview should create specific questions for their tradition, ensuring therefore that questions are relevant to the tradition covered. The suggestion has been made to ensure that in each year group there is a focus on one tradition in addition to Christianity, though that does not exclude other traditions and non-religious worldviews from being included, but these would not be the focus. The aim has been to continue to have a measure of choice, while also providing more guidance. Creating a better balance between Abrahamic and Dharmic traditions is also important. So, in KS1 and LKS2 there would be an alternation between Abrahamic and Dharmic traditions, with the aim that alongside Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hindu Dharma and Sikhi would have been covered. In UKS2, although the alternation would continue, schools could choose which traditions they revisited. At this point also Humanism should be introduced. There is the option to include some thematic units if the JSC and ASCs agree. These have not yet been drafted. KS3 would focus on Buddhism and Humanism, with the option to cover Islam or the religion proposed for KS4, giving flexibility around a 3-year or 2-yr KS3. The ASCs will need to decide if they wish to promote a 2-year KS3, which Ofsted does not recommend but which many schools nevertheless implement. The ASCs will also need to decide what to do about KS4 Core (non-GCSE) and KS5 (non-A-Level). The current minimal proposal is for a wider range of Dharmic faiths to be covered in Y10 and more work on Abrahamic tradition in Y11. This could also be done through thematic units, which allow a wide range of diverse traditions to be covered, along with some big moral and ethical considerations. The draft questions also create a distinction between the disciplinary domains of RE – namely Theology, Philosophy and Human and Social Science. The disciplinary nature of RE was raised by the Ofsted RE Research Review. There are other disciplines that could be considered, but these are the three that Voluntary Controlled CE schools will need to show that they are teaching. As VC schools must follow the LAS and the CE Statement of Entitlement, creating a syllabus that allows them to do both seems wise, as there are many VC schools across the 6 LA's.
6. Generally, the proposals were well received. There is a need to ensure that the questions are appropriate to each faith, so it is suggested that the questions are shared with members of the faith traditions, and they are asked to review, make suggestions etc. There are currently three questions per religion per year group, so

that the curriculum is approximately 50% Christianity (again with the CE VC schools in mind), though additional questions and a split between core and optional could be established.

7. Budget should not be an issue if all hub contributions are up to date.

Action Points:

- AA to produce a short intro to send to members of Groups/Committees A & B
- Hub members to send draft version to all members of ASC for comments and feedback (including their own comments and feedback)
- Responses to be shared by 16 October (before if possible so AA can collate).
- SACREs to check that hub contributions are up to date. (AA to seek confirmation from Diocesan Finance Officer)

This page is intentionally left blank

Slough SACRE action plan: 2023-4 – Updated Oct 2023

Aim	Actions	Timescales	People Responsible	Cost	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024
A. CORE BUSINESS To be a supportive and proactive SACRE enjoying full and well-informed membership	1. Fill membership vacancies	Ongoing	SACRE Chair SACRE Clerk		This is an ongoing item – reviewed at each meeting		
	2. SACRE members attend termly SACRE meetings (3 per year) and teacher meetings and training events	Termly SACRE meetings: Autumn 2023 Spring 2024 Summer 2024	SACRE Chair/SACRE Adviser SACRE members SACRE Clerk	SACRE Adviser to prepare and attend 3 x1 day SACRE Clerk to administer each meeting	Tuesday 2 nd November 2023 4.30pm	Wednesday 6 th March 2024, 4.30pm	TBD
	3. Produce annual SACRE Report	Autumn Term 2023	SACRE Adviser and clerk with foreword by SACRE Chair (input welcome from members)	SACRE Adviser x ½ day	Bring draft to Autumn 2023 meeting.	Send to NASACRE by Feb 2024	
	4. Review the action plan at each meeting	At each SACRE meeting	SACRE Adviser and SACRE	SACRE Adviser time	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting
	5. Subscribe to NASACRE Representation at annual NASACRE conference & AGM Attend other relevant and useful events	Ongoing	SACRE members SACRE Adviser Adviser to find out and inform	Subscription to NASACRE £105 - <i>NASACRE Conference and AGM</i> <i>SACRE Adviser time to attend NASACRE conference x1 day</i>	Annual Subscription rate £105	SW SACRE conference March 2024	<i>Strictly RE – Jan 2024</i> NASACRE AGM May 2024? FtF or virtual?
	6. Monitor and offer guidance on Collective Worship in schools	ongoing	SACRE	TBD	At each meeting SACRE to discuss ways of monitoring and supporting collective worship – Adviser to share guidance produced from other SACREs for member s to consider.		
B. To support teachers of RE to continually	1. Provide a termly RE network meeting for Slough teachers	ongoing	SACRE RE Adviser	Adviser time – prep and delivery 6x ½ days	28 th Nov	TBD	TBD

improve RE learning in their schools.	2. Produce an RE newsletter combining info, events and good practice – absorb NASACRE info	Termly	SACRE Adviser – SACRE members to offer suggestions	Adviser time to organise and design 3x ½ day	Sept 2023	Jan 2024	April 2024
	Updates at each SACRE meeting – request for input ideas form SACRE members						
	3. Maintain a database of school RE leaders	Ongoing but instigated in Autumn term as roles change	TBD -Adviser will keep a copy for direct distribution of RE resources and updates.	TBD – admin role? Adviser to send updated list to clerk.	An update could be given at each meeting – discussion needed as to how to obtain the information. Requests sent out to schools via newsletter		

C. To support the ongoing work of the Pan Berkshire Hub Page 14	Consolidate and develop the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub.	Next hub meeting – TBA	Slough SACRE members to attend where possible	Part of the hub commitment - £900 paid to Oxford diocese – reviewed yearly	To become a SACRE agenda item at each meeting
	Monitor agreed syllabus and prepare for review	5-year cycle	ASC formed as part of the Hub	Advisor time? Or SACRE members on ASC?	Falls under the remit of the Pan Berks Hub as of writing
	Consolidate and develop the Crossing the Bridges directory	ongoing	SACRE members to link with faith communities	Hub will need someone to take charge of this.	To become a SACRE agenda item intermittently This could be housed on the Pan Berkshire blog
	Contribute to the development of the 'Real People, Real Faith' video clips	Ongoing (extended post lockdown)	SACRE members	Part of the hub contribution – follow up work could be commissioned	Updates at each meeting as part of Hub update Videos now hosted by NATRE – new clips recently made and will continue to be made
	Inform schools and contribute to /participate in Hub conference	Potentially TBD	SACRE members Hub links SACRE Adviser	Unknown?	Updates at each meeting 'Real People Real Faith' successfully launched – advertised in networks and newsletters – more clips to be added

Slough SACRE Newsletter – Autumn Term 2023

Welcome to the new academic year and to the latest SACRE RE newsletter. We hope you all had a good summer, despite the weather, and managed to get some rest away from screens for a while!

We are aware that a new school year sometimes also means a new RE co-ordinator – at SACRE we are keen to make contact to all the RE leaders in schools so kindly ask if you could let the SACRE adviser for RE, David Rees, know the name and school email for the RE lead, even if there is no change it is useful for us to know the RE leaders so we can keep our records up to date – it will also enable SACRE to send information about RE developments and opportunities directly to RE leaders as well as being able to offer support should it be required. We do still have quite a few gaps in our database and so are aware that some information about networks, newsletters and resources is not directly reaching the RE lead – it would be so helpful if you could let us know this term.

Please send the details to the SACRE Adviser for RE, David Rees, david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com

We are very grateful to those schools who have already done this and look forward to seeing the RE leads at upcoming events which will hopefully be arranged this year.

One of the ways SACREs can support schools is by producing newsletters, like this, designed to inform RE teachers and leaders of some or all of the following...

- Local and national RE developments
- Free classroom resources
- Upcoming CPD opportunities
- News from faith communities – national and local

SACRE is also pleased to provide primary RE support in the shape of free RE networks run by the SACRE RE adviser – dates have been fixed for this term

- Tuesday 3rd October 4-5pm
- Tuesday 28th November 4-5pm

If you would like to attend any of these or receive information about support for RE, please email David on david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com - zoom links will be sent to those who confirm.

If you have anything you would like covered in any of the meetings, please do send suggestions through to David – we want the networks to be as useful as possible. We are always aware of the many demands on your time so thank you in advance for your attendance.

Local news

The Pan Berkshire Hub

- The Pan Berkshire Hub (a group consisting of members of 6 Berkshire SACREs (namely Bracknell Forest, RB Windsor and Maidenhead, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire and Wokingham) continues to meet under the excellent leadership of Anne Andrews and work together to help provide support and resources to help Berkshire teachers. The Hub produced some high-quality free teaching resources in the form of video clips and support notes. **The ‘Real People, Real Faith’** project produced Key Stage 1-3 classroom clips, these have been available for teachers to use since April 2021. The project set out to ask

believers from different places of worship and religion and worldview communities questions about their faith and how it impacts on daily life – these were professionally filmed and edited with the classroom in mind. SACRE is pleased to announce that **recently filmed Humanism clips are now uploaded**. Teacher notes have also been produced to accompany each video clip. They are hosted on the NATRE website <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/real-people-real-faith/> SACRE is delighted that the site has had over 4,500 hits and hopes they will continue to be used. The hub meets termly and is now in discussion about the Pan Berkshire Agreed Syllabus review process – there will be opportunities for Pan Berkshire teachers to be involved. The hub has already gathered opinions on the existing syllabus and what changes might be needed to be included to reflect what has happened in the world of RE since the last syllabus was written. Please keep an eye open for opportunities and let David Rees know if you wish to be involved.

News – national

Regional RE Hubs

New regional RE Hubs have been set up to build relationships with advisers, dioceses, universities, SACREs, LAs, governors, MATs, teaching school hubs and more. The Regional Leads will also act as conduits between the regional providers of research, CPD, resources, places of worship and so on for the benefit of all Religion and Worldview stakeholders.

SACRE Adviser David Rees will be involved in these and will keep you updated through networks and newsletters – it is a really exciting development which could really help RE teachers and leaders connect more locally and hopefully nationally. The website is now up and running and signposts many useful RE links including REQM and a growing list of regional speakers for school visits – check out the website here <https://www.re-hubs.uk/>

Interfaith week

Inter Faith Week takes place this year from **Sunday 12 to Sunday 19 November**.

The Week begins on Remembrance Sunday to encourage the remembering together of service of soldiers and civilians of different faiths and beliefs from Britain and the Commonwealth and to reflect on peace.

The Inter Faith Week website www.interfaithweek.org has lots of activity ideas, with examples and illustrations drawn from the many successful activities held for the Week to date by faith and belief bodies; local inter faith organisations; community and voluntary organisations; workplaces and staff networks; local authorities; emergency services; SACREs; schools, colleges, universities and youth organisations; chaplaincies; sports organisations; libraries; museums and art galleries; hospitals and hospices; and many others. It also includes practical guidance and links to further information. Ideas for activities can be found here:

<https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/ideas>

Culham St Gabriel's

Culham St Gabriel's NEW theme of the term is the Abrahamic faiths. They are kicking off with a FREE textbook on Shia Islam which teachers can download. Keep an eye on CSTG postings which will be exploring interesting aspects of teaching Islam, Christianity and Judaism for the rest of the term.

They have recently added a new course on Subject Knowledge and one more is planned for this Autumn: <https://courses.cstg.org.uk/>

The Introduction to Religion and Worldviews course is designed for teachers and non-teachers so. It will help them be up to date in current thinking about RE.

Also coming up is a free conference for Primary RE hosted by the Institute of Ismaili Studies in London. CPD: Islam in the RE Classroom

This CPD event aims to enhance the quality of learning and teaching about Islam in Primary and Secondary RE classrooms in the UK. All KS1-3 mainstream schoolteachers/subject leaders who would like to learn about RE in general and Islam in particular are invited to join. An excellent opportunity to engage with the aesthetic, artistic, mystical and poetic expressions of a faith tradition that has evolved over time and geography.

Date and Time: 23 September 2023 (Saturday) 10:00 am - 4:30 pm

Venue: The Ismaili Centre, London - 1-7 Cromwell Gardens, South Kensington, London SW7 2SL

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/islam-in-the-re-classroom-tickets-696829885947>

RE Online

RE Online is a free quality-controlled website designed to support teachers with many different aspects of teaching and leading RE. The website has excellent knowledge essays designed to help teacher subject knowledge – these cover up to 15 different religions and worldviews and are written by experts in the field. These can be found at <https://www.reonline.org.uk/> under the knowledge tab.

A popular part of the website features the SHAP festivals calendar. As many of you will be aware the autumn term includes many festivals from a variety of religions and worldviews including

Some of this term's festivals include...

September 18th - Ganesh Chaturthi (birthday of Ganesh) – Hindu tradition

September 24th – Harvest – Christianity

September 25th – Yom Kippur – Judaism

November 8th – Birthday of Guru Nanak – Sikhi

December 8th – Bodhi Day – Buddhism

The website has information about the beliefs and practices behind each festival available here <https://www.reonline.org.uk/festival-calendar>

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place each year on **27 January**. Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. HMD is for everyone. Each year across the UK, thousands of people come together to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future. We know they learn more, empathise more and do more.

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/>

Fragility of Freedom is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2024.

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2024 marks the 30th anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. 49 years after the Holocaust ended, 19 years after the genocide in Cambodia, the world stood by as Hutu extremists shattered the fragile freedom in Rwanda, following

decades of tension and violence, culminating in the murder of over one million Tutsis in just one hundred days.

HMD trust resources can help you learn more about the Holocaust and genocide and plan your own HMD activity. Explore life stories of survivors and those who were murdered, virtual activities, schools' materials, films, images and more using the filters below.

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/>

There will be local and national events as usual – more details on local events will be included in the January newsletter.

Resource and event news (often quoted from the providers)

- Jigsaw RE, the enquiry approach to Religious Education
'A one-of-a-kind, exciting way to teach RE across the primary school!
Jigsaw RE is the big sister of Discovery RE and turns Discovery RE's medium term planning into lesson-by-lesson plans and adds lots more enquiries giving lots of choice as to which religion/worldview to teach when.
Jigsaw RE is a comprehensive Scheme of Learning for Religious Education for the primary school, ages 3-12. Written by RE specialist teachers in the Jigsaw Team and trialled by 100 schools, the weekly lesson plans with all the resources needed to deliver them, and integral assessment process make Jigsaw RE the vehicle to transform statutory RE in the primary school. It adopts an enquiry-based Worldviews approach to teaching and learning with much flexibility and choice of which religion/worldview to include when.

This means Jigsaw RE is compatible with, and a huge help to implementing locally agreed syllabi across the UK. Our complimentary mapping documents transparently share how we see Jigsaw RE supporting each agreed syllabus and flag up gaps if there are any. Schools access Jigsaw RE by purchasing an annual or 3-yearly subscription. Prices relate to the number of pupils in the school.

See www.jigsaweducationgroup.com or contact us office@janleveragegroup.com and we will be happy to help you.'

- The hugely popular annual **CREative, REinspiring Virtual RE Conference** will run again all day on **Tuesday 19th March 2024**, it will once again be open to all schools and will have inputs covering EYFS-Key Stage 4 – it will have a mixture of familiar faces and fresh new people too.

Please hold the date, further details will follow in the January newsletter.

- Humanists UK – visit their website for free downloadable resources, including lesson plans, classroom activities, presentations, videos, and humanist perspectives on a range of topics discussed in school, see our website Understanding Humanism. Teachers can also find guidance and information about CPD opportunities. You can also request a visit from a free humanist school speaker.

There are also two free online courses to develop your subject knowledge.

Visit these pages for all of the above information <https://humanists.uk/education/teachers/> and <https://understandinghumanism.org.uk/>

- 'Learn Islam is a group of doctors, trustees, professionals, teachers and volunteers, which has been setup to help teachers. We work to provide high quality material related to Islam for free that has been verified, so that teachers are able to teach these topics in schools from young years to teenagers with more confidence and ease. These include:
PowerPoints slides for Primary and Secondary Schools.

Worksheets and Quizzes based on the slides to assess knowledge.

Covering KS1 through to KS4.

These are aligned to the RE syllabus, based on SACRE guidelines for Primary Schools and GCSE for Secondary Schools

88 recorded words on how to pronounce them based on the curriculum.

Resources can be found on the website www.learn-islam.co.uk

- Muslim Learner Services

‘Promoting a better understanding of Islam in Schools and Colleges’

Muslim Learner Services based in visits schools (in-person or virtually) and supports primary schools with Islam assemblies, pupil workshops, staff training and Islam teaching resources.

Muslim Learner Services aims to:

- Promote a greater understanding of Islam in schools and colleges to foster better relationships between learners of all faiths and no faith.
- Help learners understand how to keep themselves safe from radicalisation and extremism.
- Support learners’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, so that they are well prepared to respect others and contribute to wider society and life in Britain today.

Information and contact details can be found in the website below

<https://muslimlearnerservices.org/>

- NATRE, the subject teacher association for RE professionals, works to support those who teach and lead in all schools and institutions and at all stages of their career. NATRE has a website which includes a resource library - <https://www.natre.org.uk/resources/>

NATRE also organises the excellent **Strictly RE** conference which runs from 27th-28th January 2024 (Saturday and Sunday) with other seminars being run at twilight times before and after these dates. Strictly RE has become a key date in the diary for the RE community. With 400+ people taking part in over 25 online sessions, this event is a great place for RE professionals to come together to share ideas, gain new knowledge and further boost confidence when teaching RE, as there will be lots of downloads, presentations and ready-to-use resources for the classroom. There will be something for everyone, from Headteachers and Senior Leaders to Primary Teachers and ITEs. The Strictly RE 2024 event theme is ‘Building a subject for the future!’ SACRE RE Adviser will be attending and will be rolling out some of the key points in the Winter term networks.

SACRE hopes that this newsletter contains useful ideas to help you in the coming term. We will send another newsletter out at the start of the Winter term. In the meantime, SACRE sends very best wishes to you for the new term and as always commends you for all your hard work and dedication.

David Rees SACRE RE Adviser

September 2023

This page is intentionally left blank

SACRE MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE RECORD 2023/24

Member	Representing	04.07.23	02.10.23	06.03.24
Sue Elbrow	The Free Churches	P		
Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan	Islam	Ap		
Waqar Bhatti	Islam	Ab		
Shujah Hamid	Islam	Ab		
Hardip Singh Sohal	Sikhism	*P		
Ashpreet Singh Nainu	Sikhism	P		
Rev Gordon Briggs	The Church of England	Ap		
Christine Isles	The Church of England	P		
Andrea Sparrow	The Church of England	P		
Munsoor Malik	Primary	P		
Priya Lamba	Primary	P		
Ian Sharpe	Secondary	Ap		
Nagina Ali	Secondary	P		
Robin Launder	Co-opted - Humanism	P		
Councillor E Ahmed	Slough Borough Council	P		
Councillor Akram	Slough Borough Council	P		
Councillor Instone		P		
Councillor Khawar	Slough Borough Council	P		
Councillor Mohindra	Slough Borough Council	P		
Councillor Naveed	Slough Borough Council	P		
David Rees	Professional Adviser	P		

P = Present for whole meeting
Ap = Apologies given

*P = Present for part of meeting
Ab = Absent, no apologies given

This page is intentionally left blank