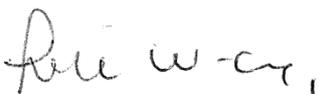


Date of issue: Tuesday 28 September 2021

MEETING	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths Ashpreet Singh Nainu (Chair), Sue Elbrow, Julie Siddiqi, Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan, Waqar Bhatti, Shujah Hamid and Hardip Singh Sohal Committee 2 – Church of England Lynda Bussley (Vice-Chair) Christine Isles and Andrea Sparrow Committee 3 – Teachers (Representing Primary, Secondary & Special Schools) Munsoor Malik – Primary Priya Lamba – Primary Ian Sharpe - Secondary Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA Councillors Basra, H. Cheema, Gahir, Qaseem and Smith Humanist Non-Voting Co-opted Member Robin Launder
DATE AND TIME:	WEDNESDAY, 6TH OCTOBER, 2021 AT 4.30 PM
VENUE:	VIRTUAL MEETING
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	NADIA WILLIAMS 07749 709961

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.



JOSIE WRAGG
Chief Executive



AGENDA
ITEM

REPORT TITLE

PAGE

AGENDA

PART I

Apologies for absence.

1.	Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2021- 2022	-
2.	Minutes of the Last Meetings held on 3 March and 17 June 2021	1 - 10
3.	Matters Arising	
4.	Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub Minutes of Meeting held on 6 September 2021	11 - 12
5.	Autumn 2021 SACRE RE Newsletter	13 - 16
6.	SACRE Action Plan 2021 - 2022	17 - 20
7.	SACRE Finance Update	-
8.	Crossing the Bridges Programme Revisited	-
9.	SACRE Membership News (An update from all members regarding activities undertaken since the last SACRE meeting)	-
10.	Equality and Diversity - Resources	-
11.	SACRE Members' Attendance Record	21 - 22
12.	Information Items (for noting):	23 - 24
	i) Latest news and updates from NASACRE - SACRE Briefing Issue 29: https://mailchi.mp/ef31ead25065/6g3v9uvmy6-5020634?e=63a7f02ab2	
	ii) Should collective worship in schools end – Bishop Steven’s statement to the House of Lords: https://www.oxford.anglican.org/bishop-of-oxford-house-of-lords-september-2021/?fbclid=IwAR0FmVX8A0xOBK6MEeJR-ylv0Qd8BX553m_7kRiQ2HfUKIsLAYT63niirGg	

13. Date of Next Meeting - 9 March 2022

Press and Public

This meeting will be held remotely in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. Part I of this meeting will be live streamed as required by the regulations. The press and public can access the meeting from the following link (by selecting the meeting you wish to view):

<http://democracy.slough.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

Please note that the meeting may be recorded. By participating in the meeting by audio and/or video you are giving consent to being recorded and acknowledge that the recording will be in the public domain.

The press and public will not be able to view any matters considered during Part II of the agenda.

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Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd March, 2021.

Present: -

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Ashpreet Singh Nainu (Chair), Sue Elbrow, Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan, Waqar Bhatti, Shujah Hamid and Hardip Singh Sohal

Committee 2 – Church of England

Lynda Bussley (Vice-Chair), Rev Gordon Briggs, Christine Isles and Andrea Sparrow

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Munsoor Malik – Primary
Priya Lamba – Primary
Ian Sharpe - Secondary

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillors Basra (To 4.45pm), H Cheema, Gahir, Qaseem and Smith

Humanist Non-Voting Co-opted Member

Robin Launder

Apologies for Absence: - Julie Siddiqi

17. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 4th November 2020

Resolved - That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 November 2020 be approved as a correct record.

18. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2020.

19. SACRE Membership Update

The Clerk advised that there were 5 membership vacancies in Group A and 3 in Group C remaining to be filled.

SACRE discussed the issue of enabling the co-opted Humanist representative to be appointed to full membership.

The Professional Adviser (Adviser) reported that a number of local authorities had broadened their SACRE membership to include full membership of Humanist representatives. This was possible because the local authority was responsible for deciding which bodies were represented in each group. The Chair highlighted that Humanism was currently being taught at Key Stage 3 at his school.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 03.03.21

At the conclusion of the discussion, SACRE recommended that Humanism be included in Group A.

A formal review of SACRE membership, which was approved by Council, would be required to amend the prescribed bodies in Group A. However, this would not prevent the engagement of the Humanist co-opted member from being involved in SACRE.

Resolved:

- i. That the SACRE membership update be noted.
- ii. That the SACRE recommend the widening of Category A to include Humanism; subject to the formal process being undertaken by Officers.

20. Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub Update

Christine Isles presented the minutes of the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub meeting held online on 2 February 2021.

It was highlighted that some of the latest films from the Real People, Real Faith project had been viewed and notes to accompany the films had been produced. The films would be presented at the online conference this year. Funds were being held in reserve for the production of additional resources to accompany the Real People, Real Faith films.

The films would be launched on 28 April 2021 via Zoom and would be available on the NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) website.

SACRE was also informed that the £900 subscription to the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub would not be required for 2020-2021.

Resolved – That the minutes of the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub meeting held on 2 February 2021 be noted.

21. Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub Blog

The Chair announced that the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub Blog had been developed as a central point for teachers to place links with information on various subjects including RE. The blog would enable teachers to share resources.

Teachers who wished to share their resource could contact David Rees, Professional Adviser or Mark Laynesmith, Reading SACRE Chair who administered the blog.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 03.03.21

22. SACRE Newsletter

The SACRE noted the Winter Term 2021 RE newsletter.

It was noted that items for the Summer Term newsletter should be sent to the Adviser by 9 April 2021.

Resolved – That the Winter Term 2021 RE newsletter be noted.

23. SACRE Action/Forward Plan 2020-2021

The Adviser presented the draft Action Plan for September 2020 – August 2021.

Members noted that as previously mentioned; subscription to the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub had not been collected for the 2020 – 2021 financial period. It was anticipated therefore, that this money could be carried over to 2021-2022.

The autumn term SACRE network meeting had been arranged for 18 March 2021 to be held via video conferencing.

It was highlighted that the NASACRE conference was taking place on 24 May 2021 and SACRE members wishing to attend should notify the Clerk. The conference would be publicised in the Autumn Term newsletter. Funding may be available to pay for supply cover for some teachers. The Chair would attend the conference if other SACRE members were unable to.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

24. SACRE Finance Update

The Senior Effectiveness Officer advised that £1,300 funding relating to the 2016 purchase of RE resources had now been resolved.

Funding remaining from April 2020-March 2021 was noted at £2,182. A creditor's schedule had been submitted but not yet confirmed.

The SACRE budget of £5,000 for 2021-22 was expected but also had yet to be confirmed.

The Adviser suggested that schools would find it useful to be provided with a copy of 'Making Every RE Lesson Count' by Louise Hutton and Dawn Cox (a practical guide to RE). Fifty one copies for all schools would be at a cost of £650. The Adviser would send further details to the Chair to review and ascertain whether the book would be appropriate for all schools.

During discussions about ways that the £1.300 sum of money could be used to support schools, the following comments/ suggestions were made:

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 03.03.21

- Invite Robin Launder to provide a training session on Humanism (Details to be publicised in the SACRE newsletter once date has been confirmed).
- Revisit the Crossing the Bridges project.

Resolved - That the Budget update be noted.

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

There were no updates provided.

26. Equality and Diversity - Resources

The Adviser reported that at the Strictly RE Conference held on 21 January 2021, at which over 300 teachers had attended; a session was held on anti-racist RE. A link to available resources to support teachers in this area had been included in the Winter Term 2021 RE newsletter for information.

Decolonising the Curriculum; this involved a review of the curriculum in terms of inclusivity to incorporate the diversity of religious and non-religious world views. At the conclusion of the review, resources would subsequently be produced to support schools. Details would be signposted in forthcoming RE newsletters, and circulars would be sent to the Clerk to be circulated for information.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

27. SACRE Members' Attendance Record

Resolved – That the Members' attendance record be noted.

28. Date of Next Meeting - 16th June 2021

The next meeting scheduled on 16 June was changed to 17 June 2021.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.33 pm and closed at 5.58 pm)

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Thursday, 17th June, 2021

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Ashpreet Singh Nainu (Chair), Sue Elbrow, Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan, Waqar Bhatti, Shujah Hamid and Hardip Singh Sohal

Committee 2 – Church of England

Lynda Bussley (Vice-Chair), Rev Gordon Briggs and Christine Isles

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillors Basra, Begum, Brooker, Kaur and Smith

Apologies for Absence:- Andrea Sparrow and Ian Sharp

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING WAS NOT QUORATE AND NO FORMAL DECISIONS WERE THEREFORE MADE.

29. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 3 March 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2021 would be reported to the next meeting.

30. Matters Arising

Minute 24: SACRE Finance Update - It was confirm that the Chair had reviewed and given approval for the purchase of the book entitled, 'Making Every RE Lesson Count (a practical guide to RE)' by Louise Hutton and Dawn Cox. A copy would be sent by the publishers directly to all primary and secondary schools at no extra postage cost.

31. SACRE Membership Update

The Chair asked the Clerk to send details of the next meeting to the Hindu Education Board UK, as they were keen to send a representative to attend the meeting as an observer. In addition, an invitation would be sent to a secondary school teacher who had also expressed an interest in attending a meeting as an observer.

32. Review of the Terms of Reference and Membership of SACRE and making recommendations to Council

The SACRE considered a report on the review of the terms of reference and membership. The proposal to consider widening Committee 1 (Christian Denominations and Other Faiths) category to include 'beliefs' had been put forward as an option to establish a way of appointing the Humanist representative to full voting membership. It was noted that any revisions to the

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 17.06.21

TOR would need to be endorsed by the Member Panel on the Constitution and ratified by Council.

During discussion, some members expressed their view that Humanism should not be included in Committee 1 category. Others suggested that more information and further discussion was needed and critically, to be mindful of the requirement to reflect the religious population in the local area in the membership.

The Professional Adviser (Adviser) reported that a number of SACREs had included Humanism in category 1, to give voice to representative members. Members were informed that Religious Education (RE) was not simply about the study of a religion, but rather about encouraging young people to value themselves and the communities they lived in. In addition, RE teaching in secondary schools currently incorporated other views, as reflected in the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for RE 2018-2023. It also specified the study of a non-religious worldwide view in Key Stage 3 (noted as possibly Humanism).

Members broke up into their respective groups to discuss the proposal further and to decide whether to vote in favour or against the proposal, as each group was entitled to just a single vote. There was no voting right for Co-opted members.

Members returned and the following was noted that Committee 1 (Christian Denomination and Other Faiths) was undecided, Committee 2 (Church of England) was in favour and Committee 4 (Representatives of the LEA) was not in favour.

No Committee 3 members were (Representatives of Teacher Association) present at the meeting.

The Clerk advised that there needed to be at least one member present from each of the four groups in order for the meeting to be quorate. As there was no representative member in Committee 3 present, the meeting was deemed to be inquorate. No formal decision could therefore be made.

The proposal would be reconsidered at a future meeting.

(At point 6 (the top of page 3 of the report) the rest of the sentence after 'Humanism' was disregarded as it was not applicable).

33. Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub Update

It was reported that no representative from Slough SACRE had attended this meeting.

The SACRE congratulated Anne Andrews, RE Adviser, Oxford Diocesan Board Education and Chair of Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub on her election to a post on the NASACRE Executive (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education).

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 17.06.21

(Sue Elbrow was experiencing internet problems at this point connecting in and out of the meeting).

34. Summer 2021 SACRE RE Newsletter

Members received the Summer 2021 SACRE RE newsletter and were encouraged to submit items for inclusion in the Autumn 2021 newsletter to the Adviser or the Clerk.

It was confirmed that the newsletter had been circulated to schools.

35. SACRE Action Plan 2021-2022

The Adviser provided an update of the 2021-2022 Draft SACRE Budget.

The following points were highlighted:

- The next NASACRE conference was likely to be held in Birmingham.
- The next RE Network meeting would be held on 1 July 2021 (a previous meeting had taken place in May 2021). The Chair requested for practice materials to be provided to RE teachers and circulated to all those on the RE co-ordinators database. The Adviser was requested to check that schools had received their copy of the 'Making Every RE Lesson Count (a practical guide to RE)' book and to take the opportunity to establish what further resources schools may require.

Members discussed the issue of SACRE connecting with schools and it was suggested that a short RE survey of teachers should be undertaken to get feedback on ways that SACRE could increase engagement with schools. It was highlighted that this was a critical method used as part of the process of reviewing the Agreed Syllabus (every 5 years) in gathering feedback and comments from teachers.

The SACRE thanked David Rees, the Professional Adviser for the work he had done in producing the newsletters and in increasing engagement with RE teachers.

36. Draft SACRE Budget Update

Members noted the NASACRE estimated recommended level of funding of 2% from the CSSB (Central Services School Block) to SACREs.

The Group Manager for Schools Effectiveness was therefore asked to provide details about the following in order to ascertain the percentage of funding received:

- The amount of CSSB funding received by the Council.
- The percentage of funding currently allocated to Slough SACRE.

A response to be provided via email.

(Sue Elbrow was having problems connecting in and out of the meeting).

37. A short summary of Ofsted Published Research Review on Religious Education

Members noted a short summary of the Ofsted published research review on RE, which sought to help prevent pupils from developing misconceptions about religion and non-religion.

The Adviser encouraged members to view available resources at RE: Online (www.reonline.org.uk), where details on religion/worldview could also be found. A link to the Think Tank RE: Online video would also be circulated to members for information.

During discussion, the question about monitoring the quality of RE being taught in schools was raised and it was explained that a series of reviews were being undertaken on the whole school curriculum, which included RE with the focus on lived experiences. No indicators had been provided about the correct way of carrying out assessment, as the decision was left to local areas. More work was therefore needed in this area. The Adviser was involved in the assessment process, and would provide feedback to SACRE. The Adviser explained that the review had highlighted that students could now access Eastern religions and the need to promote greater use of religious buildings.

Members discussed that the Crossing the Bridges programme should be revisited in order to further promote the crossing the bridges places of worship project. This item would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Vice-chair suggested that a scheme of work should be developed, based on the Agreed Syllabus to promote the principles of believing, belonging and behaving. Lynda Bussley would send a copy of a draft plan to the Adviser for information.

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

Councillor Brooker reported that he had been appointed as a church warden and had been asked to become a school governor at St Mary's CE Primary School.

Julie Siddiqi announced that Sunday 4 July was National Thank You Day. She had been involved in the initiative and had endeavoured to promote the inclusion of faith elements. Members were encouraged to get involved and details would be sent to the Clerk for circulation.

The Chair reported that Robin Lander had made a presentation on Humanism (taught as world view) for Year 8 pupils in his school. Further presentation at assemblies for Years, 7, 8 and 9 had also been arranged.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 17.06.21

39. Equality and Diversity - Resources

Equality & Diversity

The Adviser reported that Milton Keynes Council was offering training to schools on Understanding the Importance of Race and Diversity, on 17 & 24 June 2021. Further details would be sent to the Clerk for circulation to members.

40. SACRE Members' Attendance Record

SACRE members' attendance record was presented.

41. Date of Next Meeting - 6 October 2021

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 6 October 2021.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.30 pm and closed at 6.13 pm)

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SACRE HUB MINUTES 6 SEPTEMBER 2021 4.00 PM ON ZOOM

Present: Karen Butler, Beth Rowland, Angela Hill, Anne Andrews, Mark Laynesmith, David Taylor, David Rees, Christine Isles, Ashpreet Singh, Gareth Barnard, Madeline Diver
Apologies: Stephen Vegh

Item 1: Agreed syllabus forward plan.

The following plan had been sent to SACRE hub members in July

1. *We need to ask LAs about the possibility of funding the syllabus review to the tune of £900 for each of the financial years 22-23 and 23-24. This would give the hub £10,800 to fund the review over the two years, bringing it in line with the minimum suggested by NASACRE for an effective syllabus review.*
2. *We will send an online survey to all teachers across the Pan-Berkshire region in October and again in Jan/Feb (if necessary). AH and DR are pooling questions for this, but we will keep them simple and straight forward.*
3. *We aim to launch the Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASCs) in the summer term 2022, when we have the results of the survey and have analysed what sort of changes teachers are keen to see. (This might need to come forward to spring term 2022)*
4. *Generate teacher and faith groups working/writing parties early in the summer term 2022.*
5. *First draft to ASC's late autumn 2022*
6. *Revisions during spring 2023*
7. *Final design and publication – May -June 2023*
8. *Online launch – July 2023*
9. *Fully implementation in September 2024*

There was robust discussion around the first item on the list with a couple of members in favour of extending the timescale. Covid and current teacher workload were cited as reasons why a postponement might be in order. On the other hand, the release of the Ofsted RE research review in May 2021 and the forthcoming publication of the next Ofsted report into RE, alongside the major changes in thinking around RE, suggest that aiming to stick to the proposed timescale might be beneficial. This, coupled with the hope that the syllabus requires more clarification and exemplification than major revision, encouraged SACRE hub to broadly accept the proposed timeline, but with some provisos.

- a) The survey in October/November (repeated or extended in January/February as necessary) should focus on gauging teacher capacity and desire for revisions.
- b) Any revision must take into account the Real People, Real Faith films and allied work. A proposal to include some exemplification of the syllabus referring directly to the films was supported.
- c) The results of the survey(s) would inform the next steps, and if it were necessary or deemed wise because of teacher capacity, we could consider extending the review period over three rather than two years.

There was also discussion about whether £900 per year per SACRE would be sufficient funding. It appears that each SACRE contributed £1700 per year last time. It was felt that in current circumstances, if we could run the revision on the proposed £10,800 over two years, it would be manageable for SACRE budgets, as some SACREs and LAs are more cash strapped than others. For a final decision to be made about costs, SACREs and the hub would need to know how much revision for the syllabus was required, and whether it would be in electronic form only, or whether there would be printed copies available. The amount spent on design would also need to be considered, as the current syllabus lacks the professional appearance of some others. Using the full amount each year

would mean that SACRE needs to devote most of its time and effort to the syllabus, not leaving capacity for additional work.

There was also discussion about the decisions that individual SACREs would need to make. Hub members were asked to take the above proposals to their SACREs for the first meeting of the year or agree in principle ahead of that if meetings take place later than mid-October.

SACREs need to agree in principle to continuing to collaborate on the syllabus.

They need to agree to the funding proposal.

It was suggested that some SACRE time looking at different recent agreed syllabuses across the country might be instructive. Two per SACRE seems reasonable and ideas can be pooled.

It was also suggested that the Agreed syllabus should aim to be compatible with the widely used Understanding Christianity resource (produced by RE Today), but that the syllabus should not be too closely tied to it, as for many schools three days of training and the cost of the resource makes it prohibitive. Discounts are available to community schools, but the training is still essential as the resource is not available without it.

Decisions:

AH, DR and AA to meet to decide on the questions for the survey and the platform to be used. (Meeting scheduled for 09/09/21)

Survey to go to hub for approval asap

Survey to be launched early to mid-October, but closing date extended to 12 November.

Hub to meet in early December when survey data processed and available (Tuesday 7 December TBC)

Item 2 the survey questions

DR offered the following questions as a starter:

1. To what extent is your school's provision for RE based on the current Agreed Syllabus?
2. Please give a brief explanation for your answer above
3. What do you like about the current Agreed Syllabus?
4. Are there any specific changes you would like to see in a new Agreed Syllabus?
5. Are there any other comments about the Agreed Syllabus you would like to make?
6. What do you think the aim of RE should be?
7. If a new Agreed Syllabus is developed, what support would you find helpful? (Tick all that apply)
8. Would you be interested in providing further input into the development of the Agreed Syllabus?

If yes, please provide your name and email address

There was general agreement that these were heading in about the right direction, but that we needed to keep the focus to teacher capacity. AH has additional questions and these will be discussed at the meeting on Thursday.

AOB

Update on Filming:

Catholic film has been produced, but not yet received in question episodes. AA to chase.

We are close to getting the money from Reading Faith forum for the next batch of filming; if we get this this will mean that the project can continue, despite hub devoting itself to the syllabus review.

Meeting closed at 5.10 pm

Slough SACRE

Autumn Term 2021 RE Newsletter

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

As the new school year starts, we want to wish you all the best for the new term hoping that this year will be less disrupted by pandemics and lockdowns and that you can continue with the face to face teaching that we all prefer.

SACRE wishes to send out a sincere thank you to all teachers and schools for the way in which you have continued to show dedication to children and education during many months of unprecedented events. We recognise the challenges you have faced and want you to know that we are here to support wherever possible.

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 email 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 free RE network meetings directly to RE leaders as well as being able to offer support should it be required. 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 their RE leads at the next RE network meeting

SACRE wishes RE teachers to know that support is available in many forms. One of the ways SACREs can support teachers is by running virtual RE network meetings and producing newsletters 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

Virtual Networks

SACRE is supporting RE by running virtual RE networks as twilight sessions each term – these are run by the RE Adviser to SACRE David Rees. If you would like to attend any of these or receive information about support for RE please email David on david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com.

The first network meeting will be on Thursday November 4th and will be held virtually. If you would like to attend please email David to book a place

Pan Berkshire Hub update (Free video clips– a reminder)

The Pan Berkshire Hub (a group consisting of members of 6 Berkshire SACRES) continues to meet and work together to help provide support and resources to help Berkshire teachers. Last year the Hub produced some excellent free teaching resources in the form of video clips and support notes. The '**Real People, Real Faith project**' Key Stage 1-3 classroom resources have been available for teachers to use since April. 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. Teacher notes were also developed to accompany each video clip.

Six communities were interviewed at each key stage. Each film has a page of notes outlining the key questions and concepts, with a brief summary of the answers and some suggested follow-on activities. Two questions, specific to each key stage were asked across the range of venues and in most venues, several people answered each question. This allows pupils and teachers to explore some of the diversity both between and within faith communities. Many of the clips will help schools address some of the big questions suggested in the locally agreed syllabus.

The resources are kindly hosted on the NATRE website and can be accessed by following the link below.

<https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/real-people-real-faith/>

Please use these to help your teaching and feel free to feedback comments or suggestions to David. If any of you have developed teaching activities to link these further to the agreed syllabus questions then we would love to hear from you.

Free Online Support

RE Online

RE Online is a free quality-controlled website designed to support teachers with many different aspects of teaching and leading RE. Recently the latest newsletter has gone out to those who have signed up. You can sign up here for free

<https://cstg.us16.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=1fb0c29ab731212a3ab5788dc&id=ac766e00fe>

During the pandemic RE Online produced a newsletter every month as a way of offering greater support during that difficult time.

As well as the newsletter there are teaching resources, knowledge essays on all the major faiths and worldviews designed to help improve subject knowledge and ideas on how to connect with faith communities. There is also a large section on research and how it connects with the classroom. There are also a series of blogs written for teachers by teachers – these blogs are designed to inspire teachers to try new things.

All of this information can be found here

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

A key part of RE Online is the link to the SHAP festivals calendar

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/festival-calendar/>

The calendar includes festivals from a wide range of religions and worldviews. It includes background information to the festivals and often links to other resources which would help in the classroom.

In the next few weeks, the following festivals are celebrated so please check the calendar if you are planning to teach about them – everything included is free

- Yom Kippur – Sept 16th
- Sukkot – September 21st
- Autumn equinox – September 22nd
- Harvest festival – September 27th
- Simchat Torah – September 29th
- Navaratri – October 6th
- Anniversary of the birth of the Bab – October 6th
- Anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah – October 7th
- Durga Puja – October 11th
- Prophet Muhammad's birthday – October 19th or 24th
- Divali – November 4th
- Birthday of Guru Nanak – November 19th

Upcoming events

Interfaith week

Interfaith week is celebrated each year in November. This year the week runs from 14-21 November 2021– information can be found here <https://www.interfaithweek.org/>

The aims of interfaith week are to

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels

- Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

The website gives information, resources and suggested activities.

Inter faith Network

'The Inter Faith Network for the UK works to promote understanding, cooperation and good relations between organisations and persons of different faiths in the UK.'

Information on how to get involved can be found at their website

– <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/>

Holocaust Memorial Day 2022

Holocaust Memorial Day is commemorated on January 27th every year. It remembers in particular the Holocaust during the second world war as well as highlighting more recent genocides. The purpose is always to educate, to inform, to encourage people to unite together in remembering the events and dedicating towards preventing further atrocities. Each year there is a theme. The theme for HMD 2022 is **One Day**, new resources were recently released and can be accessed for free from the following link <https://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/>

The website has a range of assemblies, lesson plans and activities to help students learn about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, as well as contemporary issues. The resources aim to help students to: learn more, develop and feel empathy and be inspired to take action.

CPD – advanced notice

Strictly RE - save the date! 29 & 30 January 2022

After an extremely successful virtual conference last January – according to NATRE

'Strictly RE is back! NATRE will be hosting its national annual conference online for your convenience and peace of mind while still giving you everything you love about Strictly RE without having to leave your home.

More details will be released on the NATRE website later this term. There is a cost to attending.

Pan Berkshire Teachers conference

The last Pan Berkshire RE Teachers was due to run in July but was postponed due to the pandemic guidelines. We sincerely hope to be able to run some CPD including a conference this year if the situation levels out. More details will be revealed as they become available.

Opportunities

The Culham St Gabriel Trust will be running some more sessions in their popular 'In Conversation' events – all can be accessed here

<https://www.cstg.org.uk/activities/events/in-conversation/>

Autumn 2021 events lined up include

- **Wednesday 29th September 4.15-5.15pm: Public Perception, Religion and Worldviews, Dr Sarah Harvey and Dr Kathryn Wright**
This session will share newly published research (due September 2021) and other recent findings about how the general public including the media, parents and employees perceive the value and importance of an education in religion and worldviews. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and consider future research opportunities together.
- **Wednesday 3rd November 7-8pm: Religion, worldviews and the media, Ruth Peacock**

This session will share some insights from the work of the Religion Media Centre including the ways in which religion and worldviews are presented in the media. The Religion Media Centre is an independent, impartial organisation seeking to help the media be better informed and have greater understanding of religion and worldviews in the UK. We will also hear more about their 'Five Cities' Project. As the journalists will be the ones being interviewed, come ready with your questions!!!

Ruth Peacock is director of the Religion Media Centre and oversees its work.

- **Wednesday 17th November 7-8pm: Religion and Belief Literacy- reconnecting a chain of learning, Professor Adam Dinham**

This session will share some of the thinking behind Adam's book of the same title. The book presents a crisis of religion and belief literacy to which education at every level is challenged to respond. Adam proposed a clear pathway for engaging well with religion and belief diversity in public and shared settings.

- **Wednesday 1st December 4.15-5.15pm Religion and Belief in the UK Workplace, Tamanda Walker**

This session will share some insights from research being undertaken by Tamanda Walker about religion and belief in the UK workplace. Her doctoral studies have grown out of her practice within Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives

Tamanda is a consultant, researcher and facilitator working internationally to help individuals and organisations work through issues of identity and inclusion sensitively and effectively within education, employment, policy and community settings.

You can also find recordings of previous seminars at

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/research/in-conversation/>

Social Media

There are several RE based groups on different Social Media platforms – these include Facebook

- Respect: The subject community for RE professionals – formerly known as Save RE – a group for RE professionals
- RE in the South Central – linked to NATREs regional ambassadors

Twitter

- #REChatUK twitter forum - Occurs the first Monday of every month in term time. The next one is 4 October 2021: What do we mean by substantive and disciplinary knowledge in RE?

David Rees

RE Adviser to SACRE

September 2021

Slough SACRE action plan: 2021-22 – Updated September 2021 – draft

Aim	Actions	Timescales	People Responsible	Cost	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022
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 issue – reviewed at each meeting		
	2. SACRE members attend termly SACRE meetings (3 per year) and, when possible, training events	Termly SACRE meetings: Autumn 2021 Spring 2022 Summer 2022	SACRE Chair/SACRE Adviser SACRE members SACRE Clerk	SACRE Adviser to prepare and attend 3 x1 day = 3x£450 = £1350 SACRE Clerk to administer each meeting	Wednesday 6 th October	Wednesday 9 th March 2022	TBC
	3. Produce annual SACRE Report	Autumn Term 2021	SACRE Adviser and clerk with foreword by SACRE Chair (input welcome from members)	SACRE Adviser x ½ day - £250	Compile new report using NASACRE template	Send to NASACRE by Dec 2021	
	4. Review the action plan at each meeting and discuss updates	At each SACRE meeting	SACRE Adviser and SACRE	SACRE Adviser time	Reviewed and discussed 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 - NASACRE Conference and AGM SACRE Adviser time to attend NASACRE conference x1 day? £450	Annual Subscription rate £105	SACRE RE Adviser attended NASACRE AGM Monday 24 May 2021 Virtual NASACRE AGM 2022 Birmingham	

Slough SACRE action plan: 2021-22 – Updated September 2021 – draft

Aim	Actions	Timescales	People Responsible	Cost	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022
B. <i>To support teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in their schools</i>	1. Provide a termly RE network meeting for Slough teachers	Ongoing	SACRE RE Adviser	Adviser time – prep and delivery 6x ½ days (could go back to 3 x ½ days)	Thursday 4 th November 2021	TBD TBD	TBD TBD
	2. Produce an RE newsletter combining events, info and good practice – absorb NASACRE info when available	Termly (could be more frequent if needed)	SACRE Adviser – SACRE members to offer suggestions	Adviser time to organise and design 3x ½ day = £750	Sept 2021	Jan 2022	April 2022
					Updates at each SACRE meeting – request for input ideas from SACRE members		
	3. Maintain a database of school RE leaders	Ongoing but instigated in Autumn term as leadership roles will have changed	TBD Adviser will keep a copy too for direct distribution of RE resources and updates.	TBD – admin role?	An update could be given at each meeting – discussion needed as to how to obtain the information – requests included in termly newsletter		
4. Look for other ways to support teachers (e.g., buying an RE book for each school)	Summer 21	SACRE and Adviser	The book 'Making every RE lesson count' was sent to all Slough schools in time for Autumn 2021				
C. To support the ongoing work of the Pan Berkshire Hub	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		

Slough SACRE action plan: 2021-22 – Updated September 2021 – draft

Aim	Actions	Timescales	People Responsible	Cost	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022
	Monitor agreed syllabus and prepare for new syllabus review	5-year cycle	ASC formed as part of the Hub	Advisor time? Or SACRE members on ASC?		Hub leader raised issue at hub meeting in June 2021 – process to begin with survey of schools/ RE leaders	
	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. Slough to decide on who updates		To become a SACRE agenda item at each meeting	
	Contribute to the development of the 'Real People, Real faith' video clips - in line with syllabus questions	Ongoing (extended due to 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 to be made	
	Inform schools and contribute to /participate in Hub conference	TBD	SACRE members Hub links SACRE Adviser	Unknown?		Updates at each meeting Launch event for 'Real People Real Faith' April 2021 – successfully launched – advertised in networks and newsletters	

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SACRE MEMBERS ATTENDANCE RECORD 2020/21

Member	Representing	4.11.20	3.03.21	17.06.21
Sue Elbrow	The Free Churches	P	P	P*
Julie Siddiqi	Islam	P	Ab	P
Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan	Islam	P	P	P
Waqar Bhatti	Islam	P	P	P
Shujah Hamid	Islam	P	P	P
Hardip Singh Sohal	Sikhism	P	P	P
Ashpreet Singh Nainu	Sikhism	P	P	P
Rev Gordon Briggs	The Church of England		P	P
Lynda Bussley	The Church of England	P	P	P
Christine Isles	The Church of England	P	P	P
Andrea Sparrow	The Church of England	P	P	Ap
Munsoor Malik	Primary	P	P	Ab
Priya Lamba	Primary	P	P	Ab
Ian Sharpe	Secondary	P	P	Ap
Robin Launder	Co-opted	P	P	P
Councillor Basra	Slough Borough Council	P	P	P
Councillor H Cheema	Slough Borough Council	P	P	
Councillor Begum	Slough Borough Council			P
Councillor Gahir	Slough Borough Council	P	P	
Councillor Brooker	Slough Borough Council			P
Councillor Qaseem	Slough Borough Council	P	P	
Councillor Kaur	Slough Borough Council			
Councillor Smith	Slough Borough Council	P	P	P
David Rees	Professional Adviser	P	P	P

P = Present for whole meeting
Ap = Apologies given

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

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Should collective worship in schools end?

Friday

This week, the House of Lords unusually sat on a Friday. Bishop Steven spoke in a debate on the [Education Bill \(Assemblies\)](#) which would bring about an end to the requirement for state schools without a religious character to hold collective worship in assemblies.

My Lords, I do warmly welcome this debate. As others have said, it is very timely that it is raised. I thank the noble Baroness Burt for her careful introduction and other Lords and Ladies who have spoken, particularly my distinguished predecessor-but-one, Lord Harries with whom I think I am about to disagree.

Worship and spirituality are a vital part of what it means to be human and it is absolutely right for all the reasons that have been said that this is carefully reviewed and possibly some changes introduced.

I think my reason for in conscious finding this bill difficult goes back to my experience of leading assemblies as a local parish priest in Halifax many years ago. and putting a great deal of time and energy into rehearsing the parable of the good Samaritan, the story of Joseph, the story of Moses and only for the otherwise extremely good and gifted headteacher in the school to reinterpret my assembly with the phrase "Of course, what the vicar really means is don't run in the corridors and pick up the litter in the playground."

Without a serious faith tradition, it's a reduction of fantastic values that had been articulated to simple practical motifs which I fear is the danger of the bill like this.

There are many benefits of collective worship in schools: a time to pause and reflect, to gather community, to mourn in times of tragedy as we've seen recently, to foster common values, to celebrate festivals – not just Christian – and to build religious literacy which is vital.

Although there is some evidence to the contrary, there is other evidence that suggests that the present arrangement works well as many schools and children will testify.

The noble Baroness and others have argued that the bill would liberate school to use the valuable time gained to cover themes such as the environment, health, relationships and self-esteem. But all of these are regularly part of good collective worship in the present pattern within the context of the great faith tradition. If the Bill is passed one effect may be to make anything which is more than secular assemblies not legal and contested in our schools.

I fear, one of the risks of the bill, is that it will weaken the protection around this valuable space for reflection from the school day and that the life of our schools will move in an ever more utilitarian direction. And children will grow up being ignorant to the possibilities and depth of the faith traditions which, as the noble Lord Lilley has said, have formed our society and our culture and the societies of the world where faith plays, still, a massive role.

So, is it right in a pluralist society that worship remains wholly or mainly Christian? I believe it is and for this reason: the alternative to rooting collective worship in the Christian tradition is to root it in a largely invented, contemporary gathered syncretic tradition which lacks depth or authority, which is unconnected to any faith community, and which will quickly be abandoned.

I think the effect of the bill may be to replace a tolerant, humane and hospitable Christian faith as the main strand of worship in our schools, combined with other faith traditions, with a largely manufactured cluster of ideas with few roots in stories or culture and varying enormously from school to school.

I don't think the majority of the nation's children and young people should be denied the experience of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development connected to a living tradition which research shows they value. It is right that we are having this debate and I hope many conversations from it, but I urge your Lordships not to progress.

Extract from the Diocese of Oxford:

https://www.oxford.anglican.org/bishop-of-oxford-house-of-lords-september-2021/?fbclid=IwAR0FmVX8A0xOBK6MEeJR-vlv0Qd8BX553m_7kRiQ2HfUKIsLAYT63niirGg)