

# Slough

## Annual SACRE Report 2020-2021

(Sep 2020-Aug 2021)

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**1. Introduction and Overview - Chair bit) – should include ‘Words from the Chair of SACRE’ - welcoming new members, celebrating successes, thanks, etc.**

None of us saw what 2020-2021 would be like. 2020-21 was a really challenging year; all three of our meetings were held online and physical contact with our schools and faith communities was severely restricted due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite this we were able to continue our work making some significant achievements. At the top of the list was the launch of the *Real People, Real Faith* videos in April. These videos were recorded using Pan Berkshire Hub money and a Westhill grant and showed members of many different religion and worldview communities discussing enquiry questions from the Pan Berkshire agree syllabus. The clips are classroom ready and pitched for Key Stages 1-3, these are now housed on the NATRE website whether others will be able to use these to enhance their teaching!

Attendance at meetings has been variable with many members involved in multiple virtual meetings, SACRE is grateful to everyone for their commitment and attempt to support the work in difficult circumstances..

**We need to say something about the SACRE members especially who joined and who left – can we get this info?**

Many thanks are due to all our members and our Professional Consultant David Rees who worked to link SACRE and schools as effectively as possible under the circumstances. SACRE is also grateful to the clerk Nadia Williams who supported us diligently during her term. It is a great benefit to have a regular Clerk who gets to know us and our ways of working.

Slough SACRE believes that part of our key purpose is to offer direct support to our local schools in their practice of collective worship (CW) and the teaching of RE. Hence much of our time is spent discussing how we are doing this and possible developments in doing so. This year we have given RE much more attention than Collective Worship. This partly reflects the closure of schools during Covid-19, SACRE will renew a focus on Collective Worship in the coming year.

## **2. Statutory Responsibilities in RE**

Our Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) is called the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, which we produce in conjunction with the other five SACREs in Berkshire once every five years. In Slough the LAS is well established in most of our schools, and most academies have also adopted it although SACRE recognises that it needs to find out more about how much it is adhered to.

We are due to produce a new LAS in 2023. However, because of Covid-19 we are in conversation with our partner SACREs with a view to delaying the launch until 2024. This gives time for the Pan-Berkshire Hub (consisting of the SACRE Chairs and Professional Consultants) to do the work of preparation thoroughly, and we have already started this process.

In 2020-21 we continued to monitor and support the teaching of RE regularly, under the constraints imposed by Covid-19 conditions. Professional advisor David Rees led half termly primary network meetings for RE leads and produced a termly Newsletter which was sent to all schools. These newsletters signpost a combination of local and national events, cpd opportunities, new resources (particularly free ones) and feedback from events (for example NASACRE AGM and Strictly RE).

We did not receive any information about withdrawals from RE this year.

SACRE is not aware of any REQM awards this year but is keen to promote the REQM. The professional adviser is an assessor and often includes information about the REQM to teachers at network meetings. Hopefully when the REQM website is refreshed the map will help us identify local schools who have been through the award process.

### **3. Statutory Responsibilities in Collective Worship**

Schools were working remotely for much of the year consequently we were not able to monitor their ability to provide Collective Worship apart from some anecdotal evidence. SACRE is aware of the need to monitor collective worship and has been actively trying to engage with local religion and worldview communities to provide appropriate speakers to help schools hear the lived experience and lead reflections. Slough SACRE is in communication with other SACREs who have produced materials and advice to help schools with collective worship including suggested themes, a code of conduct for visitors and tie ins with the curriculum. Slough SACRE hopes that with 'a return to normality' this work can be stepped up.

It has not been necessary to renew any determinations during this year. (A determination is permission for a school to provide daily collective worship which is not 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.) We have not considered our Determination Process in recent years.

### **4. Links with Other Bodies**

As mentioned above Slough SACRE works closely with our partner SACREs in the Pan-Berkshire Hub. David Rees and SACRE members Sue Elbrow and Christine Isles regularly attend meetings of the Hub and feedback to SACRE. We include membership of NASACRE in our budget each year. The professional advisor helps Slough SACRE stay in touch with providers and events like RE Online and the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. Links to other organisations are actively being sought and SACRE members are encouraged to investigate local and national contacts. We have recently made diversity and equality an agenda item and will be inviting speakers in from the LA and external service providers to speak to SACRE. This will be extended and further outreach will be made.

### **5. Local Involvement**

In previous years we have circulated advice about Ramadan to schools. Recently some SACRE religion and worldview representatives have begun to engage with teachers through RE network meetings. This will hopefully be continued. As Slough has a good range of diversity there are many opportunities which could be developed as well as nurturing other links through the other 5 SACREs in the Pan Berkshire hub. Covid 19 put the 'crossing the bridges' project on hold but the intention is to reignite interest. The Crossing the bridges project was designed to help provide contact details for places of worship in the Pan Berkshire Hub area giving advice on visits and teaching materials to accompany visits to places of worship. These materials are still in use but do need regular checking to ensure contact details are still current.

### **6. SACRE Arrangements**

David Rees continued to serve as our Professional Adviser, and we benefit hugely from Nadia Williams at Slough Council who served as SACRE Clerk and Jo Curd, senior school effectiveness officer. Both of them work hard to keep lines of communication open and provide essential support to the adviser and SACRE as a whole.

All four membership groups are regularly represented at meetings, and there were no issues with quoracy this year. Can we check this? We made efforts to recruit a wider range of faith representatives, this will continue on the next year

No formal training for SACRE members was accessed this year. I believe this is true but please do let me know if it isn't

In the financial year beginning April 2021 SACRE was granted £ Can we check this? SACRE is grateful for the support of Slough borough Council particularly in these days of stretched resources and budgets.

### **Appendix 1 - Public Examination Results**

can we get these?

### **Appendix 2 – CPD Provided to Schools**

Primary RE leader network meetings were organised every half term and led by the SACRE adviser – these were relatively well attended considering the difficult circumstances. Materials were always circulated afterwards and the focus always has a key focus on teaching and learning, resources, new developments, support and the opportunity to share wows and worries. A Pan Berkshire RE teachers' conference was planned but sadly postponed – moves are in place to arrange another one this year whether face to face or virtual

**Appendix 3 – Action Plan – we need to put the one in from 2020-2021 – I'll hopefully attach with this.**

**We need to add the table of SACRE members and the groups represented**

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