

Swindon Borough Council

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Tuesday, 3 March 2020

The Deanery School, Peglars Way, Swindon SN1 7DA

At 6.00 p.m.

**Group A:
Christian Denominations
and Other Religions or
Religious Denominations**

Malkit Babbra, Sikh Community
Jo Backus, Buddhist Community
David Burbidge, Baptist Church
Claire-Marie Burchall, Roman Catholic Community
Atiff Ghafar, Muslim Community
Reverend David Howell, Swindon Evangelical Alliance
Michelle Howard, United Reformed Church
Dinesh Patel, Hindu Community

**Group B:
The Church of England**

Reverend Clive Deverell
Reverend Norma McKemey
Ruth Williams

**Group C:
Teacher Associations**

Tracy Mason, NEU
Helen Redhead NEU
Lottie O'Brien, NASUWT
Emma McCarthy, NASUWT

**Group D:
The Local Authority**

Councillor Matthew Courtliff
Councillor Fay Howard
Councillor Oladapo Ibitoye
Councillor Garry Perkins
Councillor Basil Solomon

Co-Opted:

Jo Garton, Swindon Humanists
Fidelma Meehan, Baha'i Community

Support Officers:

Katy Staples, SACRE Advisor
Gareth Cheal, Education Place Planning and Admissions
Manager
Steve Bogg, Commissioner for Education

Committee Officer: Rita Glen Gallo, 07980 752051

email: rglen-galo@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street,
Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 445500)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

3. Public Question Time

See explanatory note below. Please phone the Committee Officer whose name and number appears at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.

4. Chair's Announcements

5. Presentation from Sarah Stewart about RE at The Deanery CE Academy

6. Minutes (Pages 5 - 8)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2019.

7. Matters Arising not on the agenda

8. Annual Report - review of actions already taken (Pages 9 - 18)

9. Annual Report - Actions for the new Development Plan

10. Agreed Syllabus Review 2021 - Suggested timeframe

11. Website Reviews - Round 2

12. Verbal Feedback (Pages 19 - 30)

Verbal feedback on the following:

- a) Annual Conference,
- b) Dillington Conference
- c) LTLRE (Learn, Teach, Lead RE)
- d) Hub Meeting

13. Training Offers

- a) Assemblies SMSC British Values and Character Development for All Schools 5th May at the Deanery in Swindon.
- b) LTLRE Conference – 26th June at the Deanery in Swindon.

14. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SACRE will be confirmed after Annual Council in May 2020. Members of the SACRE are asked to suggest venues or indicate where this and future meetings of the Panel should be held.

Date of Despatch: 19 February 2020

Public Question Time - Swindon Borough Council is committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from members of the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters and specific planning applications). Questions must be relevant, clear and concise. Because of time constraints Public Question Time is not an opportunity to make speeches or statements. Prior notice of a question to the Director of Law and Democratic Services is desirable - particularly if detailed background information is needed.

Access Arrangements – The Venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee Clerk above, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.

If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size please contact the Committee Officer whose name appears on the first page of this agenda.

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TUESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2019

PRESENT:-

Group A:	David Burbidge (Baptist Church)
Christian Denominations and	Clare-Marie Burchall (Roman Catholic
Other Religions or Religious	Community)
Denominations	Dinesh Patel (Hindu Community)
	Malkit Babbra (Sikh Community)
	Atiff Ghafar (Muslim Community)

Group B:	Reverend Norma McKemey
Church of England	Ruth Williams

Group C:	Lottie O'Brien
Teacher Organisations	Emma McCarthy
	Helen Redhead

Group D:	Councillors Fay Howard and Nick Martin
Councillors	

Also in attendance: Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor), Steve Bogg (Senior Primary Commissioner), Emma Ainslie-King (, Head of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Matthew Courtliff and Reverend David Howell, Jo Backus, Michelle Howard and Jo Garton.

12. Welcome from the Chair

The Chair welcomed members of the SACRE to Commonweal School and advised this was the last meeting of this calendar year. The Chair thanked Emma Ainslie-King, Head of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics at the school for inviting the committee. Mrs Ainslie-King commenced the meeting by referring to her experience of teaching Religious Education (RE) at the school. She confirmed the school taught RE at Key Stages 3 and 4 and following a consultation with students that was undertaken every three years, the school was aware students enjoyed the subject and would pursue it to achieve a qualification. She responded to members' questions regarding RE topics pupils studied at GCSE and A level and how the school approached interfaith themes.

The Chair also thanked Emma McCarthy and Jo Garton for presenting the WIRE Awards at Eldene and Greenmeadow Schools. Emma McCarthy referred to the activities undertaken when she presented the award during the assembly at Eldene Primary School. Members noted the local press had also covered the award presentation at Eldene Primary School.

Resolved – (1) That Mrs Ainslie-King be thanked for her interesting presentation.
(2) That Emma McCarthy and Jo Backus be thanked for presenting the WIRE Awards at Eldene and Greenmeadow Schools.

13. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interest in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

14. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

15. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2019, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

16. Minutes from Key Stage 4 Working Party

The SACRE Advisor stated that following the last SACRE meeting, there were still concerns some schools were not offering any Religious Education (RE) at Key Stage 3, particularly when they were not offering the subject at Key Stage 4. This was a national trend as the number of entrants to RE exams has been going down over the past years. She referred to actions being taken by Bristol SACRE, which was offering schools in Bristol an RE curriculum for Key Stage 4 pupils. The course covering six out of nine topics was to be undertaken over a two year period and was offered as part of a non-examined subject in a pool with PSHE and Careers. This course was to ensure schools provided a broad and balanced study covering the core disciplines of RE, mainly theology, philosophy and social sciences. The SACRE Advisor elaborated on the topics to be covered and confirmed that some of them may be amended to reflect Swindon community base. SACRE noted that currently the main religions being studied in the Bristol and Swindon areas were Christianity, Islam and Buddhism.

SACRE discussed the minutes of the Bristol SACRE meeting held on 9th October 2019 as these provided further information on the proposal and agreed that this was an option that could be offered to Swindon schools. Members further agreed that the topics for study were balanced and would promote constructive discussions during RE lessons.

SACRE discussed the difference in the study programmes for GCSE and A Level examinations and how the changes into the Ofsted assessing regime affected schools' league tables.

Resolved – (1) That the SACRE Advisor be requested to:

- a) Discuss the new RE proposals at the next hub meeting.
- b) Update members at the next SACRE meeting on Bristol's implementation of the proposals.

17. Questions for RE Curriculum Leaders to consider (New Ofsted 2019)

The SACRE Advisor referred to the questions Religious Education (RE) curriculum leaders would consider in their preparation for an Ofsted inspection. This related to the quality of RE leadership in schools. SACRE discussed some schools'

perception of RE teachers and how this may influence the take up of RE by students, particularly when no final exams were undertaken. Members discussed how a “deep dive” into subjects prior to Ofsted inspections would identify how RE influenced other subjects. Members agreed that the questions being considered were relevant for curriculum leaders in other subjects and that it would be helpful if schools were offered this extra support. The SACRE Advisors proposed to discuss this further with hub members at their next meeting.

Resolved – That the SACRE Advisor draft responses to some of the questions recommended for RE curriculum leaders preparing for Ofsted inspections in order for the hub members to consider at their next meeting.

18. Wire Award Gold 2019

A Widening Inclusivity in Religious Education (WIRE) Award certificate was circulated at the meeting for SACRE members to view. A folder of evidence for the award submitted by St Francis CofE Primary School was also circulated. The SACRE Advisor confirmed that Eldene and Greenmeadow schools were awarded the WIRE Award this year and St Francis CofE School would be presented with its award certificate shortly. She confirmed that schools were only able to display the certificate for three years and as such, were encouraged to gather evidence for submission to attain credits for the WIRE Award “Gold”. The SACRE Advisor drew members’ attention to the different criteria school had to meet between the original and enhanced WIRE Award.

SACRE noted some members’ concerns regarding the feasibility of meeting all the objectives set out to achieve the WIRE Award “Gold”. The Senior Primary Commissioner drew members’ attention to the use of technology in the classroom and how through YouTube 360 and Facebook 360, pupils may experience a virtual reality visit of various religious places of worship. The SACRE Adviser confirmed that the criteria required a physical visit to a place of worship as this gave pupils the opportunity to meet a practitioner of the faith on the premises who would be able to answer any questions they had.

Resolve – (1) That the SACRE Advisor inform the schools who have already attained the WIRE Award regarding the opportunity to work towards attaining the WIRE Award “Gold”.

(2) That the SACRE Advisor promotes the South West Conference for SACRE due to be held on 2nd March 2020 at Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset.

(3) That further to (2) above, the SACRE Advisor launches the WIRE Award “Gold” at the conference.

(4) That the SACRE Advisor launches the WIRE “Gold” award at the hub meeting in March 2020.

(5) That Emma McCarthy be requested to present the WIRE Award to St Francis CofE School.

19. Feedback from the Hub meetings

SACRE received an update from Emma McCarthy, Hub Leader, about the recent RE Hub meeting. The Hub Leader explained that both primary and secondary schools attended the meeting. She confirmed that Adam Robertson, SACRE Advisor in Bristol attended and spoke about Islam. Members noted that Adam worked at a school for part of the week and was able to share the work he was

doing with his pupils with those attending the hub session.

Other highlights from the meeting included:

- Noting that a meeting had been organised for secondary teachers to meet the Religious Education Leader at Bradon Forest.
- That the SACRE Advisor would be attending the next hub meeting to discuss Ofsted.
- That arrangements would be made for Hub members to visit a place of worship during the summer term.

Resolved – (1) That the feedback from Hub meetings be noted.

20. RE Annual Conference Flyer - January 2020

The SACRE Advisor referred to the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Annual Religious Education Conference 2020 that will be held on 31st January at the Engineers House, Bristol. She confirmed that the theme of the conference was “RE to save the planet?” and the key speaker is Fiona Moss who is currently the editor of RE Today’s Primary RE series, “Inspiring RE”.

SACRE was reminded that the annual South West Conference for SACREs was being held on Monday 2nd March 2020 at Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset. The theme for the conference was “SACRE Futures”.

Resolved – (1) That members be requested to circulate the flyers.

21. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be on Monday, 3rd March 2020 commencing at 6.00pm in Committee Room 5, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon.



Swindon SACRE Annual Report 2018 - 2019



**Pupil's Religious Education work
from
Greenmeadow Primary School**

Chair's Introduction

Welcome to our annual report 2018 - 19

Swindon SACRE has continued to meet regularly and work efficiently to support RE in Swindon Schools

Supporting Good RE through CPD

Once again we were able to support schools through signposting excellent, well attended and evaluated conferences.

The Annual RE Conference organized jointly between Swindon, South Glos and Bristol SACREs was held on 26th January 2018 at Engineers House in Clifton, Bristol.

The theme was:

"Telling Tales" - and the keynote speaker was **Lat Blaylock**. 10 Swindon teachers attended this event.

We were also able to signpost teachers to the LTLRE (Learn Teach Lead Religious Education) conference held on the 28th June at Bath Spa University and 12 Swindon teachers attended.

The conference title was

'Don't fence me in'

Religion and Worldviews: beyond stereotypes towards lived experiences where the keynote speakers were **Helen John and Chris Hewer**

The Learn Teach Lead Initiative funded by the Jerusalem Trust and the St Matthias trust has also injected life into RE in the region by training and offering support to **Hub Leaders** Emma McCarthy from Orchid Vale Primary School has been the Primary Swindon RE Hub leader during this reporting period. Emma Ainsley-King from Commonweal Secondary School has been the Secondary Hub leader. Hub meetings are cross phase and have covered topics such as Teaching Humanism led by Jo Garton, Reflective Story Telling in RE led by Katherine Taylor and Sharing Good GCSE practice. Hub meetings are free and open to all schools and attract from between 8 to 35 attendees.

Initiatives that have had some Impact

During this reporting period we have had some considerable impact on schools through introducing **The WIRE Award** (Widening Inclusion in RE) this is an award that schools can be given if they attend CPD, take pupils in any year group to a place of worship that is not Christian and either put on an RE day or enter an RE competition such as Spirited Arts organized by NATRE. 3 schools were given this award during this last year but many more are working towards it in this coming year.

The other initiative taken was in response to SACRE's need to monitor standards and compliance with little funding or capacity. As a result we decided to undertake a **simple**

website scrutiny exercise which gave each SACRE member around 6 schools websites to scrutinize and a simple criteria to evaluate them and then we placed each school in the red, amber or green categories and sent the appropriate letter to the Headteacher and COG of each school. This ensured mixed responses and greater engagement and seeking of support to improve.

We have been able to continue to employ **Katy Staples as the adviser to SACRE** and, through her, individual bespoke support has been given to several schools. SACRE is grateful to Swindon Unitary Authority for its continuing support to Swindon SACRE through funding an adviser and ensuring timely and accurate clerking to the body.

Our thanks go to those who have served us in the role of SACRE members and in the last year. Janet French stepped down as one of the CofE reps, she had contributed so much to SACRE through writing materials and sharing her understanding of KS1 RE.

‘Meaningful relationships’

We have meaningful relationships with LA schools, academies, faith groups, and other local SACREs to ensure that we can offer our schools the best support possible. We continue to work closely with faith communities in Swindon and ensure that teachers can access faith speakers and people to help ensure visits to places of worship run well.

Our Collective Worship Guidance “Time to Breathe” has continued to be circulated signposted and recommended. This can be found by approaching the adviser katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org.

I have been SACRE Chair for over a year now and look forward to continuing to serve this body and working to ensure the children and young people of Swindon gain access to a high quality of Religious Education to enable them to flourish. We are a body committed to ensuring that the pupils in our area know and understand the complexity of religion and world views so they can live well in our diverse world.

Fay Howard

Councillor Fay Howard

Chair of Swindon SACRE.



What is SACRE?

SACRE is the abbreviation for the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**. Its composition is specifically multi-belief and includes serving primary and secondary school teachers. There is also representation from the British Humanist Association.

It is a statutory requirement for every Local Authority to have a SACRE and to support its work. The purpose of SACRE is to advise on the effective provision of RE and Collective Worship.

Swindon SACRE believes that Religious Education is unique because it is the only subject where the curriculum is not prescribed nationally but agreed locally. This means that we can ensure that the syllabus we offer children and young people gives examples of belief lived and practiced by people who have lived and currently live in their locality.

SACRE takes an active part in the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus every five years. This Academic year 2017-18 we continued to embed our positively reviewed new Agreed Syllabus which was adopted in 2018, written by RE Today Services. This agreed syllabus will be reviewed in 2021 and is available on request from Katy Staples :

katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

How SACRE is funded and administered

SACRE receives funding of £5,000 per annum from Swindon Council. As a statutory board SACRE is clerked through the council's services.

All SACRE's members are volunteers who give up their time freely and enthusiastically to help SACRE with its work.

SACRE Adviser

The SACRE Adviser advises SACRE and enacts its decisions. Since 2009 Katy Staples (Bristol Diocese) has provided the advice and support for Swindon SACRE. She invoices the local authority three times a year and keeps within the budget set. This has provided SACRE with a dedicated and experienced resource. Katy also advises Bristol SACRE and has extensive expertise in education and working in schools. During this period, the Local Authority Elected Members, Sarah Foulkes, Commissioner for Education and Peter Nathan, Head of Education were unable to attend any meetings, but offered oversight.

SACRE works to the non-statutory guidance in the 1994 document: Circular 1/94. Parts of that document have been replaced with the guidance: 'Religious Education in English Schools: Non- statutory guidance 2010'.

Swindon Council has approved a constitution for SACRE. A copy of the constitution may be obtained from the Clerk to SACRE Rita Glen-Gallo RGlen-Gallo@swindon.gov.uk

The agreed syllabus for RE in Swindon

During 2016 a wholesale review was held of the agreed syllabus, as a result Swindon SACRE adopted an '*RE Today*' syllabus which was made bespoke for the authority. 2017-18 has seen a period of consolidation and embedding, where, through hub meetings and Conferences, teachers have been able to gain in confidence in their planning and delivery of exciting RE

Support for schools

In line with its key priority to raise attainment in RE through advising and training teachers, SACRE undertook the following work in 2017-18

Annual RE Conference

Teachers in Swindon were signposted to the Bristol and South Glos SACRE Annual RE conference held in Bristol. This year the Key Note speaker was Lat Blaylock from RE Today Services. He spoke about "Telling Tales" in RE and helped teachers to gain confidence in their subject knowledge by inspiring them with new ideas to explore stories and texts in RE. There were excellent workshops including one led by Katy Staples about "Talk to the Animals" and exploring religious stories which feature animals in KS1. Mary Read led a workshop about how to manage a safe space in RE, and Katherine Taylor led a workshop about How to tell Wondering stories. The day was extremely well evaluated and the Swindon teachers who attended spoke of using the ideas and strategies in their teaching and being able to communicate them to other teachers in their school.

Best Practice Forums and Learn, Teach, Lead RE Conference

A very exciting development in RE has been the *Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE)* project. This is a project that has run successfully in Devon and Cornwall, and has been extended to include Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Swindon. It has secured funding from the Jerusalem Trust and the St Matthias Trust with the aim of creating a network of RE 'hubs' that will train 'hub leaders' to offer support and training to all teachers, both primary and secondary to improve the teaching of RE.

The Best Practice Network meetings, run by SACRE for many years, have now been rebranded as the 'Swindon RE Hubs'. They meet 3 times per year and are free for all primary and secondary Swindon teachers and teaching assistants. Swindon SACRE has used some of its budget to support these hubs and is delighted that a member of SACRE and teacher at Orchid Vale Primary School, Emma McCarthy, has become an accredited hub leader for the Primary phase. Emma Ainsley-King, a Secondary RE teacher at Commonweal School, co-ordinates the secondary group. The SACRE adviser, Katy Staples, assists in training the hub leaders. The new hub met three times over 2018-19 an average of 8-19 per session. The variety of the Hub meetings ensured that RE leaders and teachers in Swindon were able to receive the support that they needed. This year's meetings centred on Humanism, Exploring stories and text and Creative Islam. Thanks go to both hub leaders for their drive and organisation!

Teachers in Swindon were also invited to attend the Learn Teach Lead RE Conference which was held at Bath Spa University. It was held on June 28th and the theme was:

“Don’t fence me in” Religion and Worldviews: beyond stereotypes towards lived experiences.

The keynote speakers were **Helen Johns and Chris Hewer and Juliet Lyal.**

Workshops included: Handling your own beliefs in the classroom as a teacher, What sex is God? Creating spaces so minority belief children feel free to share ,Islam for Secondary Schools, RE and the New Ofsted Framework Once again the conference was extremely well evaluated.

Support for schools through Governor training

As part of its role to offer advice on effective RE, SMSC and Collective Worship SACRE runs training for Governors who serve Swindon schools on an annual basis

On February 26th 2018 Katy Staples led a Governor training evening , 8 delegates from 7 schools attended , the feedback was 100% Good or Outstanding.

Monitoring of RE provision in Swindon

A key task for SACRE is to monitor the overall provision of RE in Swindon schools. This is quite a difficult task, as it is some years since individual school Ofsted reports specifically commented on RE. The main evidence base that SACRE has to work from is the data from examinations. The data is presented and analysed below.

Public Examination Results

Swindon Schools entered 510 Students for GCSE Religious Studies out of a possible 2,000 Key Stage 4 pupils (23.3%).The average % of entries in England is 38.8%. This is a decline from the previous years when 34% of Swindon pupils were entered for a GCSE.

The average number of pupils being entered for Religious Studies has declined rapidly in Swindon in the last year. Over 75% of Swindon students are not being entered for a public examination in RE, which begs the question of what entitlement to Religious Education are those pupils in those schools gaining, and are those schools flouting the law.

67.2% of these students gained a 9-4 grade which is slightly lower than last year’s C grade or above achievements (68% of entries).This is slightly lower than the national average for the subject (70.5%)

It should be noted that performance measures for RE now only include full course results and not short course.

Two schools enter the majority of their cohorts for a GCSE in Religious Studies : Warneford 103/183 St Joseph’s 224/234, In the last year two schools who were entering the majority of their cohort for RE have ceased to do so : Lydiard Park and Nova Hreod .Dorcan School

enters 127/147 students for a short course in Religious Studies. So eight schools enter between 6- 59 students for some kind of public accreditation (short course or long course),

Lydiard Park is not entering any pupils for a public examination in Religious Studies.

GCSE Religious Studies at end of KS4

School/provider	Number of entries	Number of pupils	% entered	
Warneford	103	183	56%	
Nova Hreod	9	147	6%	
Lydiard Park	0	194	0%	
Abbey Park	14	194	7%	
Kingsdown	48	209	23%	Plus 1 pupils on short course
St Joseph's	224	234	96%	
Commonweal	59	224	26%	
Ridgeway	26	234	11%	
Swindon Academy	6	99	6%	
Dorcan	10	147	7%	Plus 127 pupils on short course
Lawn Manor Academy	11	135	8%	

	Number of entries	Number at grades 9-4	Number of pupils	% entered	% of those entered achieving 9-4
Swindon	510	381	2102	24.3%	74.7%
England (state funded pupils)	210793	149605	542831	38.8%	71.0%

At A level,

We do not have any data about the entries for A 'Level Religious Studies from New College Swindon, which last year had the largest cohort of entries . We also have not been supplied with anything other than the numbers entered from the other centres so no analysis of this is possible.

A-level Religious Studies

Provider	Number of entries
New College	n/a
St Joseph's	0
Swindon Academy	5
Commonweal	6
Ridgeway	11

We are grateful to Martin Bell Performance Analyst (Education)

Data Intelligence Team Swindon Borough Council for this information

South West Regional SACRE conference

Two SACRE members Jo Backus (Humanist rep) and Katy Staples (adviser) attended the March 2019 conference of South West SACREs held in Dillington Somerset and reported back to the following SACRE meeting.

The topic was the Commission on RE and its implications for SACRES keynote speakers were Paul Smalley (Chair of NASACRE), Rudi Eliot Lockhart (CEO of REC), Joyce Miller (RE Commissioner), Claire Clinton (Adviser to Newham SACRE) and Deborah Weston (Adviser to 4 London SACREs).

Statutory matters

SACRE has a statutory role to decide on any determinations. These are requests by schools to move away from the requirement for collective worship to be wholly, broadly or mainly of a Christian character. During the period of this report, there have been no requests for determinations.

Where a complaint has been made about the RE curriculum in a Swindon school, it should be referred to Swindon Council for it to deal with. Swindon Council has undertaken to seek SACRE's advice on any such complaint. There have been no formal complaints within this reporting period.

SACRE has a complaints procedure to deal with any complaints made against SACRE. There were no such complaints in the reporting period.

SACRE has a complaints procedure to deal with any complaints made against SACRE. There were no such complaints in the reporting period.

Members of SACRE September 2018 -19

Committee A: Christian and
other religious denominations

8 Members

Mr David Burbidge (Baptist Church),

Reverend David Howell (Swindon Evangelical Alliance),

Mr Malkit Babbra (Sikh Community)

Mr Atiff Ghafar (Muslim Community)

Mrs Clare-Marie Burchall (Catholic Community)

Mr Dinesh Patel (Hindu)

	Jo Backus (Buddhist)
	Ms Michelle Howard (United Reform Church)
Committee B – Church of England –	Reverend Clive Deverell, Miss Janet French Reverend Norma McKemey Ruth Williams
Committee C – teachers nominated by the South Gloucestershire TCC	Mrs Tracy Mason, Mrs Lottie O'Brien, Mrs Mandy Sandleton Mrs Emma McCarthy
Committee D – Local Authority representatives	Councillors Matthew Courtliff Roger Smith Nick Martin Fay Howard Barbara Parry
Committee E – non voting Co-opted	Fidelma Meehan (Baha'i Community) Jo Garton (Humanist)

During the reporting period, SACRE was chaired by Fay Howard and the vice chair position was under discussion. At the June meeting Emma McCarthy agreed to be the vice chair. SACRE was supported by Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor), Peter Nathan (Head of Education), Sarah Foulkes (School Improvement Adviser)

Meetings were held at the following places on these dates:

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices, Euclid Street on December 4th 2019

Main agenda items were :

1. Website Review

2. The CORE Report
3. Feedback from Hub meetings ,
4. The WIRE Award
5. Development Plan

Gorse Hill Baptist Church, Swindon, 26th March 2019

Main agenda items were :

1. A talk about the worship and work of Gorse Hill Baptists
2. The Annual Report
3. Feedback from Schools after the Website Review
4. Development Plan
5. Feedback from Hub meetings

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices, Euclid Street Swindon 26th June 2018

Main agenda items were:

1. Ice lollies provided by the Chair !
2. Feedback from LTLRE conference and need to offer schools support re New Ofsted feedback
3. Feedback from Hub Meetings
4. The crisis at KS4 RE - what can we do as SACRE
5. The WIRE award

All SACRE meetings are open to members of the public who should contact the Clerk for details of forthcoming meetings.

The Swindon SACRE can be contacted via its Clerk:

Rita Glen-Gallo RGlen-Gallo@swindon.gov.uk



Standing Advisory Council
on Religious Education in
South Gloucestershire



EVALUATIONS

**Bristol and South Gloucestershire
SACRE Teachers Conference**

31 January 2020

RE to Save the Planet



Session 1 – KEYNOTE

'RE to save the Planet' - Fiona Moss

- A good introduction to the day – really enjoyed ideas for discussion with classes and how different religions are reacting to climate change
- Relevant, interesting with lots of ideas to use in the classroom
- Engaging – made it much easier to see how RE can link into all aspects of current affairs etc
- Really interesting teaching ideas e.g. through use of art and photography to get attention of students
- Good ideas that can be adapted and used. Particularly like the use of artwork as stimulus
- Very interesting take away points for classroom practice – will be using some next week. I liked the table tapping as a way of voting
- Having an RE/ART week – will invite parents in to art gallery (WIRE AWARD!)
- Lots of great ideas and resources
- Thought provoking – lots of practical ideas. Inspired to enter spirited art competition. Really enjoyed playing the game.
- Super ideas – emotive –can take straight into the classroom
- Thank you for such an informative session. I have learnt lots of things that I will be using in my school
- Inspiring
- Great ideas and resources. Inspiring!
- Very important
- Very informative. Lots of good ideas
- Great! Very informative and interesting
- Great speaker
- Excellent! I am not a teacher yet all sessions were inspirational, insightful and gave some ideas for how to approach conversation with children
- Inspirational teaching – full of ideas
- I really found Fiona's speech inspiring and has given me food for thought
- Great connections with other areas of curriculum
- Useful tips and ideas. Liked the art ideas. Had already covered much of this with PGCE group at a Lat Blaylock session
- I liked the sacred arts competition. If in school how long do you give for it. Do you provide the paper etc.
- Different ways of introducing a theme – especially use of artwork. Thinking about how different faiths might consider/respond to climate crisis
- Excellent
- I will use the various activities that were introduced – particularly with my year 2's
- Very engaging and though provoking. Very current to the world today
- Lots of good ideas to weave into the curriculum
- A lovely inspiring start to the Conference
- A very enjoyable talk and thought provoking
- Very appropriate topic for current concerns. Some good ideas to use e.g. the board game. Would have been helpful for handout booklet to be in same order as presentation
- Really inspiring ideas – very appropriate for a themed RE day
- Very inspiring – links to more holistic and green curriculum very timely
- Excellent

- Good introduction to the day
- Really useful, lots of resources shared which is exactly what we need
- Really helpful introduction and ideas for teaching and climate/change/justice in RE for all ages
- Very good, practical ideas. Inspiring
- Great inspirational start to the day
- A real eye opener into how religion and the teaching of RE can have an impact into the children's understanding of current issues
- Great talk! I really enjoyed this, kept my interest throughout – useful
- Really enjoyable and interesting
- Links to ideas to take back to school
- Interesting, informative – links made to different faiths/ideas
- Very important
- Really useful, lots of great ideas to take back to my school
- Very inspirational, lots of useful ideas
- Engaging and thought provoking beginning to the day
- Really enjoyed hearing about linking RE to outdoor learning
- Very informative
- Very helpful and thought provoking. Lots of ideas to use back at school
- Very engaging with helpful ideas to hook children into the idea
- Inspirational and good ideas. Good introduction
- Food for thought

Session 2 – Workshop 1 (EYFS & KS1)

'Hands on Creation' – Elinor Watt & Claire Hawkins

- Lovely hands on ideas – would be nice if the staff at Fishponds could send out a termly update of what they have done
- Informative session – different ideas for teaching creation
- I loved the 7 gift bags – one for each day of creation – God's gift to the world of Day
- Lovely resources and great ideas
- A lovely mixture of ideas that would be great to use in SEN although not as a sequence
- Lovely ideas with the 7 bags for the Creation Story. Also lots of super ideas for the AT2 type questions
- Excellent hands on and practical teaching approaches and activities I will take on and implement in my school
- The hands on lesson plans were useful, making the link between sustainability and RE clear. RE in EYFS ideas – good as I find it hard to think of ideas
- I really enjoyed this workshop. I do the creation story but I'm taking away some fab ideas to improve my practice
- Really useful to see a sequence of lessons and how it can be adapted for KS1 and EYFS
- Brilliant – have so many ideas I will be pinching and using from this workshop. Applicable to EYFS & KS1 so ideal
- Really interesting and helpful, will be introducing lots of the ideas into my RE lessons
- Good practical lessons I am able to take back to class
- Really engaging – loved the persona dolls
- Lots of great ideas to take back and loved how it showed progression from EYFS to Year 1
- Useful to see example lessons and to discuss with others further extensions of these
- Inspirational! Lots of great ideas!

Session 2 – Workshop 1 (KS2)

'Poetry, Text and Debate' - Fiona Moss

- Fab ideas! Really good ideas for activities. Particularly like the journey sticks ideas, talking tubs and inspirational people unit. Would make a great whole school RE day
- Again lots of good ideas, prompts to use in the class
- Full of cross curricular ideas to use
- Loved the frame for poetry and how this could also be used for other subjects
- Again, great resources to use at school
- The important thing – structure for poetry writing is really helpful. I am excited to try it out with my KS2 RE classes. Could be used as an assessment tool
- Great links with English. Great for assessment and misconceptions
- Excellent – Good poetry structures. Links to NATRE website
- Too short a session
- Use of poetry structure
- Great ideas for how to use poetry – loved the poetry frames/scaffolds
- Super, practical ideas
- Liked the poetry ideas
- Useful models for poetry writing that can be used for assessment. I like the idea of using it for pupil voice
- Loved the poetry frame ideas. Very keen now to have a go at spirited poetry
- Lots of great ideas to use in school that can be linked to all areas of RE curriculum
- Loved the poetry ideas!
- Loads of ideas
- Excellent!
- Practical ideas
- As a small school with mixed age group classes could see these activities working well
- Impressed with standard of examples of work by children, inspired to have a go at school
- Good ideas to use – resources helpful and informative
- Great to see how cross curriculum links can be made to push learning further. Really useful
- Lots of very practical ideas to use
- Great ideas with strong literacy link

Session 2 – Workshop 1 (KS3+4)

Teaching Buddhism and the Environment - Emma Woodshaw and Advayamati

- Loads of teaching ideas taken and super helpful with subject knowledge. Great Q and A session with Advayamati
- I ran the session with Advayamati and enjoyed the opportunity to work with him. Thank you for the time given to plan
- Interesting to hear from a Buddhist speaker. Would have enjoyed more focus on classroom technique, how to get the Buddhism information across to students
- Practical ideas for start tasks. Advayamati was an engaging speaker
- Very helpful. Useful to have an expert. Good tips and ideas. Very interesting
- Very helpful. Good cross units made with Christianity. Good Q and A – this was helpful and thought provoking. Very useful for KS4/5
- Really interesting and enjoyed having someone from the Buddhist Centre
- Informative. Great knowledge of Buddhism shared between both and again lots of ideas and resources
- Great introduction/focus on nature and earth in Buddhism – particularly insightful for KS4/5
- Great starter ideas for the interest of my pupils

Session 3 – Workshop 2 (KS1)

'It's a Wonderful World' - Fiona Moss

- Information booklet is great – would be great to have more to support subject knowledge for all staff
- A fantastic workshop – full of ideas to take back and implement in my school – thank you
- Great resources to use in school
- Fiona had a way of making this workshop accessible and enjoyable. The booklet was full of really helpful teaching ideas
- Again, great practical and useable ideas
- Talking tubs, story investigating ideas for retelling stories. I will definitely be using stories for sequencing
- Fantastic and clear approach to teach beliefs and ways of living – very age appropriate too.
- Liked having an idea for each religion
- Really helpful practical ideas in the booklets to take back to my school as a subject leader
- Another great session. Some great ideas to make it more interesting
- Loved the practical interpretation that was mixed with outdoor/forest skill learning
- Great ideas for teaching different celebrations and how we can use the outdoors more
- Great – some ideas I will be able to use in Year 1 and EYFS
- Great ideas and suggestions of things to make lessons more interesting
- Good practical lessons I am able to take back to class
- Lots of lovely ideas for EYFS-YR2. Good to see how things can be adapted
- Use of outside, songs, things to adapt for whole school. Throughout the day Fiona provided very useable ideas
- Talking tubs
- Lots of new things to try back at school – useful to see how things we already teach to relate back to RE
- Great practical ideas for EYFS and KS1
- Good practical ideas to use in EYFS and KS1
- FAB! Lots of great ideas that can be used across phases
- More practical ideas to use in school

Session 3 – Workshop 2 – KS2

'Stewards or Vandals' – Adam Robertson, Callum Humphries & Laura Harris

- Some interesting teaching ideas – great to hear about work happening in primary schools
- Christian resources lovely and teaching ideas to question Climate justice
- Provided lots of ideas and places to find resources. Loved the ideas for Hinduism (Christian Aid)
- Lots of practical ideas and resources
- Thought provoking, going beyond the developing world idea
- Lots of great resources to go away and research and use
- Good presenters – good ideas although not so easily used in KS3 SEN. Would be incredibly useful for mainstreams
- Christian Aid resources/use of questions. Stimulating discussion and taught through different media
- Useful links to different religions and pointing towards a range of resources we wouldn't otherwise know
- Harder to link ideas to schemes of work – makes it difficult especially as time is so limited
- Lots of very inspiring and practical ideas. I liked the multi-faith/denomination focus
- Great ideas and resources, looking forward to trying them!
- Thought provoking and practical
- Excellent!
- Inspiring, great resource ideas
- As always, lots of good, practical ideas and resources to use in school
- Informative – interesting made you think about things in a different way. Links to great resources

Session 3 – Workshop 2 – (KS3 + 4)

'Christianity, Climate Change and Poverty' – Jill Dickinson

- Great teaching ideas. Great reference to further materials to support learning
- Great – loads of good ideas for lessons. Will definitely use the 'silent conversation' idea. Great suggestions for Christianity resources.
- Lots of great tips to take back to the classroom! Lesson resources were brilliant and great teaching on key concepts
- Good resources. Videos suitable for multiple key stages. Pointed in direction of further resources
- Again, very informative and interesting
- Really helpful ideas for resources, great activity and tips. Loved the video and quotes exercise – will definitely use!
- Introduced to some very useful resources that could benefit many different exam specs
- Helpful to be given resources. Very good activity ideas
- Lots of resources to take to the classroom. Great workshop
- Great suggested resources for teaching about climate and Christianity. Great tools and ideas suggested
- Good group task to engage and provide higher level thinking

General Organisation of the Day

- Lovely venue and easy to get to. Thank you !
- Great – very easy. Thanks!
- Excellent
- Great, brill food, parking a bit of an issue if coming from a distance
- Great venue – easy to access and fab refreshments. Well organised
- Good location and venue. Great times (9-3). Prior information given was really useful e.g. how to get to venue. Really well organised
- All great. Venue is very good, although parking is problematic
- Refreshments ☺ Venue ☺
- Second time to come and loved it again!
- Some great ideas to use and share
- The day was very well organised – clear programme of the day, delicious refreshments and fabulous venue. Thank you! Loved the Pen Portraits too!
- Wonderful venue, food and environment makes you feel valued and appreciated as an RE Teacher
- Excellent
- Amazing well organised – programme was just what I wanted. Venue and refreshments excellent! Thank you – a FAB day!
- Very good
- Very well organised. Delicious food!
- Well organised – good venue – great food – well communicated
- Excellent food. Slightly hard to see the boards
- Great refreshments and hospitality. Thank you !
- Gorgeous food, great organisation
- Super venue and refreshments. Notification and organisation excellent
- Food was good, vegetarian option was pretty good. Could do with some vegan friendly cakes/biscuits
- Everything was amazing including meeting like minded people in other schools and sharing activities and ideas. Welcoming venue, lovely lunch, a great programme and informative
- Great. Very well organised and resourced
- Great!
- Nothing but praise! Always a highlight of my year. Thank you.
- Excellent facilities, communication and refreshments. Could not have asked for better
- Very good – lots of good opportunities to talk to other practitioners
- Organisation was good and food choice was impressive
- Excellent. Great facilities and lovely food
- Absolutely brilliant. Food and service amazing as usual
- Excellent – thank you
- Fab!
- Fantastic as usual
- Very good, especially access to venue and parking. Good lunch
- Refreshments and venue – both impressive. Thank you! Pre-conference notification was great and useful, eg directions and parking. Programme – great, well organised
- Great venue. Very well informed and organised. Great programme and handouts
- Good refreshments. Parking an issue

- A wonderful day as always. Lots of great ideas plus fantastic well-being and networking
- A very well thought out day which was planned well and useful workshops
- Super organised and well run course. I'll be using Fischy Music!
- Brilliant day, I've got lots of great ideas to take back to school
- Great food, great venue, pleased to be able to park on site this year.
- A great venue. Food delicious!
- Smooth running and good lunch! Useful handouts
- Lovely venue and great job sticking to timings
- Very organised, lovely refreshments. Very enjoyable day
- Nice venue, great food, smooth organisation
- Excellent
- Very good, plenty of refreshments, great choice of foods
- Lovely course – lots of breaks, refreshments etc Good handouts
- Great refreshments
- Enjoyable, well run conference. Thank you
- Really well organised and well run Conference – thank you

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