

Annual SACRE Report 2012-2013



The SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) has several aspects to its role. It:

- Advises the Local Authority on matters relating to collective worship and religious education
- Advises on methods of teaching and resources for religious education
- Decides whether or not to grant determinations to those schools which apply to have daily worship which is other than of a broadly Christian character
- Identifies the need for a revised religious education syllabus

Milton Keynes SACRE works closely with NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs) and The Diocese of Oxford. All meetings of the SACRE are open to the public.

This report sets out a brief summary of the work of the Milton Keynes SACRE over the academic year 2012-2013. The minutes of the meetings which give more detail can be found at:

<http://cmis.milton-keynes.gov.uk/CmisWebPublic/CommitteeDetails.aspx?committeeID=2411>

For more information about the role and business of the SACRE please contact:

Chair	Rev Paul Smith paul.a.smith.mk@btinternet.com
Clerk	Janet Gleghorn janet.gleghorn@milton-keynes.gov.uk
Local Authority Officer	Linda Bartlett linda.bartlett@milton-keynes.gov.uk
Professional Adviser	Jo Fageant jo.fageant@oxford.anglican.org

SACRE Developments

Meetings of the SACRE during this year were held on the following dates:

- 11 October 2012
- 5 February 2013
- 18 June 2013

Membership

Reverend Paul Smith was re-elected as Chair of the SACRE. The SACRE

continued to be challenged by a considerable number of vacancies in Groups A (representatives of religious groups other than the Church of England) and C (representatives of teacher organisations). Although there was only one vacancy in Group D (representatives of the Local Authority), councillor members were unable to attend any meetings, which meant none were quorate.

This year brought the retirement of Zvi Friedman after many years of committed service to the SACRE. Fellow members have been extremely grateful to him for his valuable contributions. He regularly attended meetings of Jewish SACRE representatives held by the Board of Deputies of British Jews and brought back interesting reports. His successor, Margot Best, joined the SACRE in June.

The SACRE was also grateful to Matt Grinyer for his support as Local Authority officer. In his place members welcomed Linda Bartlett, who attended her first SACRE meeting in June.

Members were grateful to Liz Corby who served as the Clerk to the SACRE. Her commitment to the committee was much appreciated.

Religious Education (RE)

RE Courses

Twenty teachers from Milton Keynes attended a highly successful course entitled *Using Digital Technologies to give RE the HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)* provided by the Diocese of Oxford, supported by the SACRE, and held at the New Life Church. The delegates ranged in expertise with their use of computers from almost novices to very experienced but the trainer provided a day that offered something for everyone. Each person tried out something which was new to them and many were highly enthused about applying their learning to classroom contexts. The course ran in three additional locations within the diocese and all delegates had access, and continue to do so, to a shared online 'Padlet' which recorded all the ideas they had for the application of their learning. Feedback after the course suggested that teachers shared what they had learned with colleagues in their schools and there was impact on teachers other than those who attended the course and also on subjects and areas of school life beyond RE.



Collective Worship

A guidance and advice paper prepared by members approximately three years ago remains current and is available on the Local Authority website. Two schools made use of courses offered by the Diocese of Oxford on the

development of prayer spaces in schools and also on ways of giving collective worship shape and value.

No applications for a determination have been received by the SACRE either this year or in previous years. Any school wishing to explore the relevance of a determination (daily collective worship which is other than 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character) in their context should contact the local authority officer, Linda Bartlett. Church schools are not eligible for a determination. For an academy wishing to apply for a determination the correct process is for the Trust to apply through the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to the Secretary of State.

Keeping in touch with schools

In the spring Rev. Paul Smith attended the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Governors briefing meeting in order to contribute a short presentation on behalf of SACRE. He was grateful for Local Authority support with this initiative. The importance of RE was shared, outlining the role of SACRE in supporting the delivery of the RE curriculum and its potential for enhancing the wider curriculum. Some reasons why the SACRE is concerned about the reduction of RE's impact in schools were highlighted.

Finally some questions for governing bodies to consider were posed, which included:

- Is your school aware of the support available from SACRE? Do you have an RE link governor?
- Do you know if there is an RE coordinator on your staff?
- How is RE being used as part of your school's SMSC offer?
- What could SACRE do better to support the development of RE in your schools?

The presentation was well received but since then the SACRE has had no feedback. Whilst a brief presentation during a single meeting has limited impact, members nevertheless hope it can lead the way in alerting schools to the support available for RE from the SACRE.

Keeping up to date

Members of the SACRE are able to keep up to date with national initiatives in relation to RE and collective worship with the help of their professional adviser, Jo Fageant. She currently serves as the secretary of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and is that organisation's representative on the RE Council of England and Wales.

The Chair of the SACRE attended the NASACRE AGM held in Birmingham in May. Keynote speakers, Alan Brine (Ofsted) and Mark Chater (Culham St

Gabriel's Trust), spoke powerfully about the challenges and opportunities facing SACREs in these times of educational change. Group discussions in the afternoon enabled delegates to share ideas about best practice and to learn from one another.

The SACRE is aware that it has found its responsibility to monitor the provision and quality of RE and collective worship in Milton Keynes schools virtually impossible to fulfil. One of the main benefits of such monitoring is to inform the SACRE of the needs of schools and help members to identify ways in which they might best support schools in the provision of RE and collective worship. **The SACRE, therefore, invites and would welcome news from schools about what is going well in both areas so this news can be shared with others.** It would also very much like to hear teachers' suggestions about the support they would most like the SACRE to provide. During 2013-2014 the RE professional adviser will visit all secondary school to review provision and offer advice and guidance.

**Membership of Milton Keynes Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
2012-2013**

Representing	Member	Meetings attended
Group A:	Christian denominations and other religions	
Free Churches	Rachel Foster (MK Bridgebuilder Trust)	3/3
Free Churches	Richard Wightman	2/3
Roman Catholic Church	Vacancy	
Baha'i	Latifeh Rowlands	3/3
Buddhism	Vacancy	
Hinduism	Vacancy	
Islam	Vacancy	
Judaism	Zvi Friedman	1/2
Judaism	Margot Best	1/1
Sikhism	Talvinder Kaur Virdee-Basra	2/3
Group B:	The Church of England	
	Rev Paul Smith (Chair)	2/3
	Rev Michael Morris	1/3
	Lesley Salter	1/1
	Vacancy	
Group C:	Associations representing teachers	
NUT	Doris Evans	2/3
NASUWT	Vacancy	
NAHT	Vacancy	
ATL	Vacancy	
VOICE	Vacancy	
ASCL	Vacancy	
Group D:	The Local Authority	
	Cllr Bradburn	0/3
	Cllr Miles	0/3
	Cllr Geary	0/3
	Cllr Shafiq	0/3
	Cllr Clarke	0/3
Additional attendees		
Co-opted Humanist	Andrea Quayle	3/3
	Elaine Lever (Humanist)	3/3
	Ken Harris	2/3
Professional Adviser	Jo Fageant	3/3
Local Authority Officer	Matt Grinyer	2/2
	Linda Bartlett	1/2