

Minutes of the Meeting of the Bath and North East Somerset Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

**Tuesday 21st October 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Online**

Attendance:

Committee A: Christian Denominations and other Religions		
Jane O'Hara (Chair)	Baha'i Community	P
vacancy	Buddhist Community	
Julie Justin	Catholic Community	A
vacancy	Methodist	-
vacancy	Free Churches Group	
Ashish Rajhansha	Hindu Community	-
Dr Yukteshwar Kumar (Vice-Chair)	Hindu Community	-
Julia Beckett	Humanist Community	A
Imam Mohammed Gamal	Islamic Community	-
Iris Segall	Jewish Community	P
Sheikh Rashad Azami	Muslim Community	-
vacancy	Sikh Community	
Committee B: Church of England		
Patrick Haviland	St Mark's Church School	-
Louise Jenkins	Diocese of Bath and Wells	P
Committee C: Teachers' Associations		
Kevin Burnett (Vice-Chair)	National Association of Headteachers (NAHT)	P
Vacancy		
Mary Patterson	Learn Teach Lead RE (LTLRE)	P
Vacancy		
Committee D: Local Authority		
Olwyn Donnelly	Head of Education Commissioning	P
Cllr Eleanor Jackson	Councillor	P
Cllr Ruth Malloy	Councillor	P
In attendance		
Rebekah Guy	Clerk/Adviser	

P: Present;
A: Apologies for absence submitted

Item	Notes and resolutions	Action
1.1	Welcome to members JOH was acting as chair in this meeting, and she warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from JB and JJ. Adam Pitt was present for this meeting as an observer; he is a local vicar who works closely with local schools. Paul Marvin joined the meeting part way through as an observer with the intention of becoming a member (committee C) at a future meeting.	
1.2	Public Discussion and Members' Declarations No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were made.	
2	Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising RG circulated the minutes of the previous meeting held June 2025 [Paper 1]. Matters Arising: <i>[arising from previous SACRE meeting]</i> - RE Hubs - places of interest. JOH has been unable to complete this action so far. RG to take this forward. - The contract with RE Today has now finished. The contract has now been renewed with RG independently for three years. OD proposed that the minutes were an accurate representation of the previous meeting. MP seconded.	RG
3	SACRE Membership [DP – Ci]	
3.1	SACRE Membership: To review membership attendance, vacancies & DBS certificates Ruth Malloy, Liberal Democrat councillor, observed the previous SACRE meeting. OD has approved RM's membership into committee D. RM introduced herself and explained that she has particular interest in twinning, world heritage and links with other countries/cultures. She also has an interest in young people and finding common ground between all. The Attendance record was circulated, and SACRE discussed membership. It was agreed that RG contact AR and MG regarding their membership and ask if they can suggest someone else who might be able to attend SACRE meetings. SACRE members recognise how busy people are and that it is often difficult to fit everything in, nevertheless they have given no apologies or any response for the last 5 meetings. It was suggested they should be given a deadline for reply, and that they should be removed from the committee if no response is forthcoming. In the case of the Hindu representative, we do already have YK on committee A.	

Item	Notes and resolutions	Action
	Actions - RG to contact MG and AR regarding membership and attendance of SACRE meetings. - RG to contact primary teachers regarding joining SACRE. MP to mention this at the next hub meeting - RG to look into current vacancies and contact people as appropriate.	RG
3.2	New membership or co-opted members None present at the meeting.	
4	ASC Update We were reminded of the proposed timeline to complete by Sep 2027: Summer/Autumn 25 - hear from syllabus providers and begin decision making - Feedback from SACRE Spring/Summer 26 - Release teachers to trial and feedback on materials - Begin decision making, including budget implications Autumn 27 - (pay/write/adapt for syllabus) Publish and plan training Training summer 2027 Launch September 2027 Our possible partner SACREs for this ASC are Swindon, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Bristol	
4.1	Teacher Surveys (Reminder) - See attached	
4.2	Pupil Voice - RG sent out a similar survey for pupils and also spoke at the most recent LTLRE hub meeting. No responses have been submitted.	
4.3	Summary of meetings so far - RG presented a summary of meetings and actions in the ASC process so far. (See attached PowerPoint for further details.) - Members were asked for initial comments/questions.	

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	- MP explained that AMV is useful in terms of guidance but there is too much there and many links are out of date. It would need simplifying to make it more usable for teachers and she felt that adding Big Ideas adds another layer of complexity. Recently schools are buying into schemes with ready made PowerPoints. - AP commented that his experience in six schools is that there are some fundamental problems with AMV and that it doesn't interact well with Understanding Christianity and a spiral curriculum. - RG presented 4 possible options moving forwards and members were put into breakout rooms to discuss Options 1) Keep AMV and update 2) Buy into a syllabus (e.g. RE Today) 3) Write own/adapt syllabus. This could allow for Oak, or other, resources to be used easily 4) Any other thoughts?	
4.4	SACRE thoughts moving forwards Group 1 - Move away from AMV as it is not very user friendly - Cost could be an issue for RE Today - Oak/own syllabus seems to be the most feasible. It would be good to have a combination of writing our own and using the local context from AMV. - Option three is the preferred choice Group 2 - Similar conversation to group 1 - Oak/own syllabus seems to be the most sensible option. We would need to be aware that there are no EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) resources though. - It would also be important to consider who would be doing the writing, who else we would be working with and how we can use previous links such as Diocese and MATs within this. Group 3 - Understanding Christianity doesn't really fit with AMV. Therefore that doesn't seem like a realistic option for church schools. - Oak/own syllabus seems to be an appropriate and achievable option but it can't be used on its own. As a result of these conversations, it was agreed that option three would be the route to continue with further and the actions below were agreed.	

Item	Notes and resolutions	Action
	Actions - RG to contact teachers to trial using some of the Oak resources, with a particular focus on how to adapt them. - RG/MP/LJ/PM to liaise regarding who might be appropriate and willing to take part in this. - RG to contact other local SACREs following their autumn term meetings to see who it might be appropriate to work with moving forwards. - RG to begin to think about how we will ensure our local context is included appropriately within this. [Keeping in mind cross-border MATs and a possible regional ASC. Vital RE and Christian Distinctiveness leads buy into what SACRE is doing as they are key in spreading messages and training for new ASC. Also need to keep in mind any outcomes from the current Curriculum Review.]	RG/MP/ LJ/PM
5	Standards in RE and CW	
5.1	Summary of Ofsted reports [DP – Biii] No published Ofsted reports for this period.	
5.2	Summary of SIAMs reports [DP – Biii] LJ There have been two published SIAMs reports in B&NES since the last SACRE meeting. St Andrew's and Trinity Church School. They both received a J1 and had positive comments on RE. See Diocesan update for further details and analysis of national SIAMs reports. Saltford School had their SIAMs inspection last week. The report has not been published yet. This year, there are four schools in B&NES to be inspected: Marksbury, Saltford, St John's Keynsham and Two Rivers. LJ will circulate the Diocesan update via RG	RG, LJ
5.3	Wire Award: update [DP – Bvi] - Widcombe Infant School have been successful in achieving the WIRE award. Action: • RG and MP to continue to promote WIRE award • RG to arrange to go in and present Widcombe Infants with their award.	RG/MP
6	National Developments: RE Hubs	
6.1	RG shared the RE Hubs website (https://www.re-hubs.uk/hubs/south-west/places-of-worships/) Of particular interest to SACRE are the places of interest section and school speakers. There are currently very few from our area there.	

Item	Notes and resolutions	Action
	RG encouraged any members, where this is relevant, to look into this and pass on to others that they might know. Actions - RG to contact local places of worship/school speakers and suggest that they sign up to RE hubs as well. - All members to consider if this is something relevant for them or for others that they have contact with.	RG All
7	Regional and local developments:	
7.1	Learn, Teach, Lead RE (MP) • Meet 3 times a year (roughly Bath area) 2 online, 1 in person. • The first meeting this year was held in September. • The meeting included updates, local and national. RG spoke about ASC, SACRE and encouraged teachers to complete the teacher survey. • The sessions then focused on diverse Muslim worldviews and there was an excellent Muslim speaker. • Our thanks to MP and Paul Marvin for all of their work on this, particularly for encouraging teachers in such an enthusiastic way.	
7.2	Updates from the Diocese of Bath & Wells (LJ) A report was circulated.	
7.3	Regional and local developments: Updates from Bath Interfaith Group (JOH / IFG) - Social Picnic with 60 people attending - Interfaith Pilgrimage - Prayers for World Peace, several local faith communities represented - Details of future events will be circulated	
8.1	Development Plan - RG explained the suggested new development plan [PAPER 4] which had been circulated before the meeting. This is different to previous development plans and uses four key headings, suggested by NASACRE. - This is intended to be a working document which will be RAG (red, amber, green) rated depending on actions and the current situation. There is also space for relevant notes. - It was agreed to combine the two statements about school support. - RG to contact EJ regarding which colours to use.	
8.2	Finance statement - RG suggested that the finance statement be connected to the four key statements from the development plan and to simplify the current process.	

Item	Notes and resolutions	Action
	- OD confirmed that this would be enough details from the LA's perspective but that she would ask RG if she required any further information. - It was agreed to track the budget in this way moving forwards. Website - RG has a meeting with someone from the LA this week to discuss what needs to be included on a website page. It is hoped that we can then use the LA website for important documents such as minutes and then cancel the current website which is not fit for purpose. - Our thanks to MP for all she has done on the website.	
8.3	SACRE Action Log - This is still working well to keep track of actions and communicate between SACRE and LA. - Key point to note is that RG is in conversation with Lift Broadlands regarding their curriculum and will be visiting in term 2.	
9	Date and Venue for Next Meetings • Spring Term: Wednesday 11th February 16:00 - 18:00 (provisional) • Summer Term: Monday 22nd June 16:00 - 18:00 (provisional) <i>Venue required</i> • Autumn Term: Thursday 22nd October 16:00 - 18:00 (provisional) It was agreed that the earlier time is much better for future SACRE meetings. LJ and PM might not be able to make the next meeting. MP to enquire about using Hayesfield School for the summer meeting.	RG, MP
10	AOB KB raised point around 'combatting prejudice' and the recent tragic events at the synagogue in Manchester – are there resources for supporting schools? Is SACRE being active in this regard? RG circulates resources/training opportunities to schools. This should be monitored to see if need increases. LJ advised of some resources that might be of interest to schools. Resources that might be of interest to schools Curriculum: collective worship — National Society for Education https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=93dd3e2bf5c742707d8ae7c6d13e1a09e89a83c86f6a9d4b82446db758bb0992JmldtHM9MTc2MTE3NzYwMA&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=4&fclid=3a4d2c77-497f-6067-346e-3ff248cc6150&psq=board+of+deputies+of+british+jews&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9ib2Qub3JnLnVrLw	

