

Crossing the Bridges Project

The pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub project bringing together schools and places of worship to enhance RE learning.



Final Report: October 2017

We have crossed many bridges!

Thanks to the grants awarded to the 6 SACREs (Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education) comprising the pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub from Culham St Gabriel's and Westhill/NASACRE, we are very proud to have achieved all the goals the project set out 2 years ago.

In response to teachers across Berkshire asking for support in organising meaningful visits to places of worship and in knowing who to invite into RE lessons to give pupils insight into faith and belief positions, the project was established.

The 6 SACREs worked together to maximise the use of the places of worship in each of their areas, some very diverse with a wealth of different religions represented, some less-so. Working together made the pool of resources deeper, bridges across LA boundaries being crossed as well as between teachers and hosts at places of worship.

Over the 2 years we have achieved:

- Common booking forms for visits and visitors
- Common evaluation forms
- A fantastically versatile teaching/learning interactive booklet for using an enquiry approach during visits
- 5 sample booklets for teachers
- An online Directory of over 40 places of worship willing to welcome school visits
- Training sessions for hosts at places of worship
- 4 'on location' training trips for teachers
- 12 powerpoint presentations using photos taken on the trips, one for each place of worship visited, and now available to all schools across Berkshire
- 2 conferences for SACREs and teachers



The 2017 annual SACRE Conference

Held in the evening on 28th September, 2017, this event brought together nearly 50 people (SACRE representatives, teachers, hosts from places of worship, advisers).

They celebrated the achievements of the Crossing the Bridges Project, shared a buffet supper, and considered some of the issues facing RE in the current climate and in the light of national developments and reviews.



This was also the opportunity to discuss the pan-Berkshire agreed syllabus and suggest developments as we move forward with its review.

Input from the SACRE Advisers and insights offered by officers from 3 of the 6 SACREs, as well as from our mentor from Westhill/NASACRE enhanced the evening.

The 6 Berkshire SACREs are committed to working together for the benefit of children and young people's RE learning, leading by example, crossing the bridges into each other's religions, belief systems and communities... for the greater good.



Next steps...

1. The most important next step is to ensure all schools across Berkshire are aware of the Crossing the Bridges resources and the opportunities presented for visits and visitors.
2. The online Directory can keep growing and needs to be updated regularly

Again, the pan-Berkshire SACREs would like to thank all those involved in making this project possible and the success it is so far.

Jan Lever

SACRE Hub manager on behalf of the 6 Berkshire SACREs

October 2017

