



Tracey Lee
Chief Executive

Plymouth City Council
Civic Centre
Plymouth PL1 2AA

Please ask for Ross Johnston,
Democratic Support
T 01752 307990
E ross.johnston@plymouth.gov.uk
www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy
30 November 2012

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Monday 10 December 2012
1.30pm
Mutley Baptist Church, Mutley Plain, Plymouth, PL4 6LB

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf.

Members and officers are requested to sign the attendance list at the meeting.

Please note that unless the chair of the meeting agrees, mobile phones should be switched off and speech, video and photographic equipment should not be used in meetings.

Tracey Lee
Chief Executive

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PART I

AGENDA

PART I – PUBLIC MEETING

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by SACRE Members.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect of items on this agenda.

3. MINUTES

(Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2012.

4. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

To receive reports on business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be brought forward for urgent consideration.

5. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

SACRE The Chair will welcome new members to the forum.

6. SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2011 - 2012

(Pages 7 - 22)

The Religious Education Advisor will present the SACRE Annual Report 2011 – 2012.

7. SUMMER 2012 EXAMINATION RESULTS

To receive an update from the Religious Education Advisor on examination results from summer 2011.

8. OFSTED REPORTS

To receive an update from the Religious Education Advisor on Ofsted reports.

9. THE FUTURE OF RE

SACRE Members will be invited to discuss the subject 'the future of RE', a subject that was reviewed by the Religious Education Council and formed part of John Keast's recent talk in Plymouth.

10. ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Barbara Wintersgill will provide an update to SACRE on the All Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Education.

11. UNMET NEEDS PROJECT (Pages 23 - 28)

To receive feedback from the Religious Education Advisor on the Unmet Needs Project.

12. SACRE WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

To receive updates from the SACRE working groups.

13. MINSTER PROJECT

To receive feedback from the Religious Education Advisor on the Minster Project.

14. PLYMOUTH CENTRE FOR FAITHS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The Religious Education Adviser will update SACRE on the Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity.

15. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2013

The Religious Education Adviser will provide an update on the plans for Holocaust Memorial Day 2013.

16. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 4 March 2013 at a venue to be confirmed.

17. EXEMPT BUSINESS

To consider passing a resolution under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it (they) involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

PART II (PRIVATE MEETING)

AGENDA

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO NOTE

that under the law, the Panel is entitled to consider certain items in private. Members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting when such items are discussed.

NIL.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Monday 2 July 2012

PRESENT:

Miss Mitchell, in the Chair.

Councillor Mrs Aspinall, Cathy Bowness, Mrs Bradley, Councillor Drean, Councillor Gordon, Mrs Hamon, Mrs Hill, Mrs Hutchings, Anna Kelly, Mr Kerr, Dr Saha, Mrs P Shelmerdine, Councillor Singh, Mrs Slow, Councillor Stark.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Ricketts, Father G Carpenter, Rev P Chave, Ms T Griffiths, Miss C McVicker and Dr Barbara Wintersgill.

Also in attendance: Mr Marshall (RE Adviser) and Mr Johnston (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 1.30 pm and finished at 4.10 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

39. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

It was agreed that Group A would continue to have the chair, in partnership with Group C until Summer 2013. Mrs Helena Mitchell would continue in the Chair and subject to the agreement of Mrs Theresa Griffiths, she would continue as Vice-Chair.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest was made by Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct –

Name	Subject	Reason	Interest
Councillor Aspinall	All agenda items.	Chair of Friends of PIETY.	Personal

41. MINUTES

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2012 are approved as a correct record.

42. TRACKING RESOLUTIONS

Members noted the tracking resolution document and commented that the document was an effective tool and a very useful addition to the agenda.

43. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

44. **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

The Chair welcomed Cathy Slow, representing the Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter, to her first SACRE meeting.

45. **NATIONAL AND LOCAL UPDATES**

The RE Adviser informed members that nationally –

- (a) following concerns raised about the loss of numbers taking up RE GCSE the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) had launched a survey reviewing the teaching of RE a year after it was omitted from the English Baccalaureate;
- (b) the future status and place of RE was still uncertain and the upcoming decision on the National Curriculum would have an impact on the subject nationally;
- (c) the Religious Education Council (REC) would be producing a report for the School's Minister, Nick Gibb, highlighting what good quality RE looks like;
- (d) the Religious Education All Party Parliamentary Group was launched by Stephen Lloyd MP in early June 2012 to raise awareness of the value of RE; currently 37 MPs had signed up to this group.

On a local level members were informed that that the local syllabus was due to be reviewed as it had been five years since the last review.

Agreed that –

- (1) a copy of the NATRE survey be emailed to all members;
 - (2) Helena Mitchell, Chair would write a letter to all local MPs highlighting the importance of the Religious Education All Party Parliamentary Group asking them to sign up to this group;
 - (3) the local syllabus will be reviewed in 12 months at a time following the decision on the National Curriculum.
- (i) **NASACRE AGM**
The RE Advisor informed members that –
- (a) he had attended the NASACRE AGM on behalf of Plymouth SACRE;

- (b) Professor Robert Jackson gave a very inspiring speech at the AGM, which provided an insight into world-wide RE research showing that England had a very good RE process;
 - (c) nationally, there were fewer than 50 RE Advisors remaining, which reflected the struggle of RE in general and the budget constraints in local authorities.
- (ii) **UNMET NEEDS PROJECT**
The RE Adviser informed members that –
- (a) the unmet RE needs project had secured £117k over three years across Cornwall, Devon and Plymouth;
 - (b) the project had appointed Linda Rudge, as a Project Director, who embraced her new role by organising a conference aimed at teachers which was scheduled for October 2012.
- (iii) **MINSTER PROJECT**
The RE Adviser informed members that money identified in the SACRE budget had been ring-fenced for a project to develop the Minster Church of St Andrew to improve resources and help offer and enhance visits to the Minster.
- (iv) **PLYMOUTH CENTRE FOR FAITHS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**
The RE Adviser informed members that –
- (a) the Centre had spent 11 years in its current location at Watts Road this had come to an end, as Salisbury Road school is expanding and requires the building back. The Centre is now in the process of moving into temporary accommodation situated in the playground of Salisbury Road Primary School before eventually, being permanently situated within a new building of the school;
 - (b) across the city 56 schools had now signed up to the Centre's services: paid subscriptions;
 - (c) in the past year over 300 hours were spent in schools by faith speakers.

46. **OFSTED REPORTS**

The RE Adviser informed members that –

- (a) the new Ofsted framework aimed to incorporate a stronger focus on spiritual, moral, social and cultural processes in schools and it was hoped that reporting on Ofsted Inspections in schools to SACRE would raise members awareness of the state of RE in local Plymouth schools;
- (b) unfortunately, despite the new framework Ofsted Inspectors were still not comprehensively reporting on Religious Education or collective worship, however, all 30 Ofsted inspections in Plymouth had reported

that overall effectiveness of S,M,S,C development were, satisfactory, good or outstanding;

- (c) it is understood that Ofsted inspectors were due to undergo further training over the Summer and inspections were to be carried out slightly differently from September 2012 with greater attention to SMSC;
- (d) the advice from Ofsted regarding the guidance on teaching RE and collective worship is that it is for the schools to determine their own way of teaching, in line with locally Agreed Syllabuses, rather than dictating a generic approach for RE in schools.

It was agreed that –

- (1) the RE Adviser would review the 30 Ofsted reports on Plymouth schools and identify which schools that had been inspected had signed up to the Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity;
- (2) the RE Adviser would continue to review Ofsted inspection reports and report back to SACRE on their findings.

47. **THE CONTEXT AND QUESTIONS FOR RE, SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

SACRE members were provided with a document produced by the Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisors and Consultants (AREIAC) called 'Collective Worship Revisited'. The RE Adviser informed members that –

- (a) the two key aims of the National Curriculum were that schools should:
 - provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and achieve; and,
 - promote learning of S,M,S,C and educate pupils into aspects of adult life;
- (b) RE helps explore the aims of the national curriculum and also gets pupils to think about what matters to them;
- (c) the 'Collective Worship Revisited' document was an attempt to demonstrate the value of collective worship and address the issues and concerns. It was a positive step forward in assisting schools to structure quality approaches to collective worship.

48. **SACRE WORKING GROUPS UPDATE**

SACRE Members were provided with an update from working groups that had met since the last meeting.

Liz Hill, champion for group five on the key priority – to revise guidance and identify key resources for collective worship, gave a presentation and informed SACRE that –

- (a) the aim of the group was to create a rolling programme for both primary and secondary schools which, was based on a collective worship theme for each week with separate subthemes for each day;
- (b) the programme designed covered the academic year 2012 – 2013 and aimed to highlight collective worship and RE topics and promote community cohesion;
- (c) the programme had given titles to each weekly and daily theme and the next step for the working group was to establish a comprehensive resource structure for schools to utilise;
- (d) ideally the resources would be hyperlinked to each topic in an electronic version of the programme that would be shared with all schools and potentially could be a resource for trainee teachers.

Pam Shelmerdine informed SACRE members that she had recently visited Leigham Primary School to observe the teaching of RE and stated that it was a brilliant experience and very encouraging to witness such good quality teaching.

Mrs Helena Mitchell, who was champion for group one - to seek on-going opportunities to raise the profile of SACRE, informed members that –

- (e) the working group had now created a portable display that could be used at conferences and events to promote and advertise the work of SACRE;
- (f) a resource box for schools was being explored, which was hoped to enable schools to improve the resources available for RE teaching.

Jonathan Marshall, RE Adviser informed SACRE that –

- (g) he was aiming to create a SACRE/RE website which could also be used as the central store for the schools collective worship programme;
- (h) on behalf of SACRE an event had been organised on 3 October 2012 which would be hosted at the Central Methodist Hall and would have John Keast, Chair of the RE Council, as a key note speaker, he will speak to the title; “the place of RE in schools and the community”. The meeting will be open to teachers and SACRE members in neighbouring authorities;
- (g) SACRE would be sponsoring a school event for Holocaust Memorial Day 2013, which would see school pupils use performing arts to work to the theme for 2013 ‘communities together: build a bridge’.

Agreed that –

- (1) Liz Hill would email a copy of the draft rolling programme to all SACRE members;

- (2) if any SACRE member wished to further visit a school they should contact Helena Mitchell;
- (3) If any SACRE member would like to assist with the event on 3 October 2012 or the HMD one in January 2013, they should contact Jonathan Marshall.

49. **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed that the next meeting of SACRE would be held at 1:30pm on Monday 10 December 2012, and subject to agreement, at the Mutley Baptist Church, Mutley Plain, Plymouth, PL4 6LB.

50. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.

PLYMOUTH
STANDING **A**DVISORY
COUNCIL **F**OR
RELIGIOUS **E**DUICATION
Annual Report
2011 - 2012

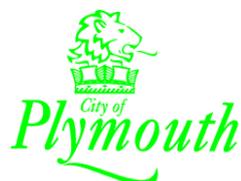


Table of Contents to be updated

	FOREWORD	1
	INTRODUCTION.....	2
1	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.....	2
1.1	The Agreed Syllabus.....	2
2	STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	2
2.1	Exemplification of Standards	2
2.2	Examination Results in Religious Studies	3
3	COMPLAINTS ABOUT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	3
4	TRAINING AND SUPPORT	3
4.1	Plymouth Centre for Faiths & Cultural Diversity	3
4.2	Courses and Conferences	4
5	COLLECTIVE WORSHIP	5
5.1	Monitoring Collective Worship	5
5.2	Advice on Collective Worship	5
5.3	Complaints	5
6	LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES	5
6.1	Devon and Torbay SACREs	5
6.2	Qualifications and Curriculum Authority	5
6.3	NASACRE	6
7	SACRE ARRANGEMENTS AND PRIORITIES	6
7.1	Development Plan for 2011 - 2014	6
	APPENDICES	7
A.	Examination Statistics 2002 – 2011	7
B.	List of Organisations to Which Report is Sent.....	9
C.	The Duties of SACRE	9
D.	SACRE Members 2011 – 2012	11
E.	Number of Meetings, Record of Attendance and a Brief Account of Main Issues Discussed at Each Meeting	13

FOREWORD HELENA TO UPDATE

DRAFT

Helena Mitchell

Chair of Plymouth SACRE

December 2012

INTRODUCTION

Plymouth SACRE is pleased to produce this report as a summary of its work in religious education and collective worship. It provides a valuable opportunity to reflect on its deliberations over the last year and to inform others of its work.

SACRE is a unique organisation and amidst the challenges and issues we face, concerning the place of religion in schools and society, there has never been a more important time for the teaching and learning of RE in schools.

1. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1.1 The Agreed Syllabus

The Agreed Syllabus - "Every Child Matters in RE" was launched at a combined SACRE Members and Teachers Conference at the College of St Mark and St John in July 2007. This represents the combined work of representatives from Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Local Authorities and SACREs under the direction of the RE Adviser for Devon. This was a wonderful achievement and now supports, guides and directs the teaching and learning of RE in Plymouth schools.

SACREs across all three Authorities have agreed to extend the use of this current syllabus for at least another 12 months, to the end of the next academic year. This will allow time for important decisions to be made by the Government regarding National Curriculum provision and for the Religious Education Council to complete its report/ recommendations on RE.

2 STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2.1 Background to exemplification of standards.

2.1.1 For several years now the absence of specific Ofsted reports on Religious Education has meant that SACRE has lost a major "intelligence gathering" tool. Since January 2012, a new Ofsted Framework for Inspection removed the requirement for Inspectors to report on Community Cohesion. However, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development is now viewed as a key judgement contributing to the overall effectiveness of the school.

2.1.2 SACRE continues to encourage all schools to use the excellent resource, *Self-Evaluation in RE – a toolkit for subject leaders* (Endorsed by Plymouth SACRE at the June meeting 2006). This document, found on the REonline/betterRE website, provides exemplary support and guidance for teachers in schools and also enables them to contribute significantly to their school's Self Evaluation.

A key feature of the Agreed Syllabus is the use of the eight-level scale for assessment in Religious Education with supporting descriptors for Exceptional Performance and the P scales. Pupil-friendly statements ("I can") across the levels help children and young-people to understand progress and standards.

2.2 Examination Results in Religious Studies (Provisional)

2.2.1 This year 15 Plymouth Secondary Schools entered a total of 974 candidates for the full GCSE examination in Religious Studies. This represents just under 37% of the year groups in these schools. 62% of students achieved grades A*-C, this compares with 73% nationally, and just over 97% achieved A*-G grades.

2.2.2 11 Secondary Schools (including our Alternative Complimentary Education Unit ACE) entered a total number of 633 candidates for the GCSE short course. This represents just over 31% of the year group. 42% achieved A*-C grades, compared with 53% nationally and just over 93% achieved A*-G grades.

Entry numbers have fluctuated considerably over the years but it is important to highlight that our full course entries in the summer were up 200 on the previous year but the numbers taking the short course examination were down over 300.

2.2.3 One candidate was entered for the Entry Level in Religious Studies. Entry Level Qualification provides opportunities for students, working below GCSE levels, to access accreditation in Religious Studies. Plymouth SACRE encourages all secondary schools, including special schools, to consider making such opportunities available.

2.2.4 10 Secondary Schools entered a total of 117 students for the Advanced Level Religious Studies examinations. 99% achieved grades A-E.

2.2.5 10 Secondary schools entered a total of 42 students for AS level and just over 88% achieved grades A-E.

NB: This figure represents the aggregated results for Year 13 students only. The results for Year 12 students entered for AS level are NOT included.

2.2.6 SACRE congratulates all the candidates on their achievement at this summer's examinations in Religious Studies.

3 COMPLAINTS ABOUT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

No complaints about religious education have been received by SACRE.

4 TRAINING AND SUPPORT

4.1 Plymouth Centre for Faiths & Cultural Diversity

SACRE continues to support the innovative work of the Centre which is seen as a unique and major resource for schools to support and extend the development of high quality RE at all levels.

This year the Centre, which operates as a Charitable Trust and is supported by Plymouth City Council, celebrated its tenth anniversary. A number of SACRE members were able to attend the celebration event in September.

The Centre's central aim is to promote education and understanding of world religion and cultural diversity. Through the exploration of different beliefs and cultures, the common thread of human and spiritual values is revealed. These are the values that ensure the future security and well-being of our local and international community. These values are therefore central to the promotion and development of community cohesion and well-being in schools.

The main way of achieving this is the service the Centre offers to schools through the local authority's 'Trading Fair' arrangement. During this year over 300 hours was spent in schools, through Faith Speaker visits and over 40 visits to local faith communities. Of these visits over 230 involved Primary Schools.

Solly Irving, a Jewish Holocaust survivor from London, spent three days with us in January. This was his 10th annual visit, in the week before Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD). He visited eight Secondary Schools/ Colleges and also met the Lord Mayor Cllr. Peter Brookshaw. Solly visited a further three schools when he came down to Plymouth in May. This time he was a guest of the Jewish Community when they celebrated the 250th Anniversary of the synagogue. The Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks attended the celebration.

The Centre continues to facilitate the development of a Plymouth Council of Faiths and three meetings were held this year.

The Centre, together with Rev. Peter Chave, organised events around this year's Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme this year was Speak Up – Speak Out and students at Plymouth Art College created an exhibition of work around the theme of "The Others". In the evening a time of reflection was held in the college's lecture theatre. The Deputy Lady Mayoress Cllr. Lynda Bowyer attended and the Principal of the College, Professor Andrew Brewerton, offered a reflection, together with other invited speakers.

4.2 Courses, Conferences and Meetings

The annual combined Citizenship – PSHEE and RE conference was again held in November, at Boringdon Golf Club – the theme was "Health and Wellbeing". The RE Adviser contributed a session on the importance of RE and SMSC.

In October over 20 Secondary RE teachers gathered at Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity for the Annual training day. The general theme was on 'Teaching and Promoting RE'.

Four Plymouth SACRE members attended the South West regional conference at Dillington in March, on the "Effective SACREs – Effective Learning".

In May, the RE Advisor was Plymouth SACRE's representative at the AGM of NASACRE held in London. Key note speakers were Professor Bob Jackson and Lat Blaylock.

This year the RE Adviser has also been involved in supporting the establishment of the "Unmet Needs in RE" project. A successful bid to St Lukes Trust will create

support, training and resources for RE teachers in hubs across Devon, Cornwall, Plymouth and Torbay over the next three years. The project Director, Linda Rudge, has been appointed and a first conference is planned for the Autumn in Plymouth.

The RE Adviser has also hosted six twilight INSET opportunities for Primary and Special School teachers. Titles were: “Teaching Primary RE” ; “Leading and Promoting Primary RE” and “Developing SMSC and Collective Worship”.

5. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

5.1 Monitoring Collective Worship

Ofsted reports rarely mention Collective Worship and despite national concerns about non-compliance the Government have no plans to revisit the issues. At its July meeting, SACRE considered a recent document produced by NASACRE “Collective Worship Revisited” as a possible way forward and suggested resource/guidance for schools.

Plymouth SACRE also has a Working Group dedicated to developing resources for Collective Worship.

5.2 Advice on Collective Worship

The RE Adviser and another SACRE Member have been working with the Devon Adviser on new guidelines and it is hoped that together with other resources (5.1 above) revised advice and guidance will soon be forthcoming as part of SACRE’s Development Plan.

5.3. Complaints

There have been no formal complaints about collective worship in schools.

6. LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

6.1 Devon and Torbay SACREs

Over the past year there has been increasing concern over the Devon RE Adviser’s ill health and lengthy absence. We hope that he will soon be restored to full health.

Some collaborative work has taken place with colleagues from Devon and Torbay and the Spring Conference at Dillington allowed us time together to consider common challenges and concerns.

6.2 Qualifications, Curriculum and Development Authority

This organisation has been disbanded over the past year and, sadly for RE another national voice has been lost.

6.3 NASACRE

SACRE acknowledges the central role of NASACRE in providing essential support, representation and guidance for local SACREs in the vital role they perform. The Annual Conference always provides an opportunity for SACRE representatives to meet and consider best practice and ways forward in these extremely challenging times for RE.

7. SACRE ARRANGEMENTS AND PRIORITIES

SACRE meets once per term and is supported by the following staff from Plymouth City Council: The RE Adviser and a Democratic Support Officer.

Priorities have continued to be guided by SACRE's responsibility to monitor standards within Religious Education and Collective Worship.

There are also working groups, with a lead SACRE member, established to lend support to the current Plymouth SACRE Development Plan, which is as follows:

7.1 Development Plan for 2011 – 2014

- to seek on-going opportunities to raise the profile of SACRE – Miss Helena Mitchell;
- to establish a planned approach to the development of RE and particularly its contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural life of the school – RE Adviser
- to establish a biennial celebration/ exhibition of RE work – Ms Teresa Griffiths;
- with Devon and Torbay SACREs, revise, as appropriate, the RE syllabus – RE Adviser
- to revise guidance and identify key resources for collective worship – Mrs Liz Hill
- to maintain and extend further the excellent work which contributes to community cohesion/ social integration in school and across the city – Cllr. David Stark;

Religious Studies Examination Statistics 2001-2012

Examination -GCSE Full Course	Number of schools (Total = 17 secondary schools, 2009 onward = 16)	Number of candidates	% of year group entered in these schools	Boys	Girls	% A*-C	% A*-G
2012 Prov	15	974	36.9	389	585	62.5	97.4
2011	13	766	32.1	306	460	68.3	97.0
2010	11	600	30.3	288	312	66.0	96.0
2009	13	643	27.2	299	344	70.8	98.8
2008	13	570	25.0	239	331	67.0	99.2
2007	14	606	24.8	237	369	55.9	97.7
2006	12	620	28.7	269	351	59.2	95.2
2005	12	646	32.8	270	376	59.0	95.5
2004	13	622	27.1	262	360	69.3	97.6
2003	12	599	28.8	232	367	49.9	91.0
2002	10	506	33.7	197	309	61.5	93.1
2001	11	481	30.0	186	295	55.7	95.4

Examination - GCSE Short Course	Number of schools (Total = 17 secondary schools, 2009 onward = 16)	Number of candidates	% of year group entered in these schools	Boys	Girls	% A*-C	% A*-G
2012 Prov	11 (inc ACE)	633	31.3	320	313	42.7	93.4
2011	10	969	54.0	479	490	43.4	93.1
2010	10	855	44.4	390	465	49.1	94.5
2009	11	744	41.0	342	402	48.9	92.9
2008	8	950	55.8	432	518	42.4	92.0
2007	8	958	56.3	425	533	46.8	95.2
2006	9	1055	56.8	487	568	48.6	90.1
2005	6	865	65.5	444	421	56.4	96.0
2004	7	907	56.9	433	474	59.2	95.5
2003	7	527	52.2	228	299	56.2	96.0
2002	9	979	58.2	508	471	42.0	92.8
2001	8	914	63.5	459	455	50.0	94.0

Examination - ELQ(C)	Number of schools (Total = 17 secondary schools, 2009 onward = 16)	Number of candidates	% of year group entered in these schools	Boys	Girls	% Level 3	% Level 2	% Level 1
2012 Prov	1 (Mount Tamar)	1	5.6	1	0	0	0	0
2011	1	3	2.3	3	0	33.3	66.7	0
2010	1	8	5.8	8	0	12.5	50.0	37.5
2009	2	3	1.1	3	0	33.3	33.3	33.3
2008	2	3	1.1	3	0	33.3	33.3	0
2007	1	3	2.3	3	0	-	33.3	33.3

Examination - Advanced Extension Award	Number of schools (Total = 15 secondary schools, 2010 onwards = 16)	Number of candidates	% of year group entered in these schools	Boys	Girls	% D	% M
2012 Prov	0	0					
2011	0	0					
2010	1	1		1	0	0	0
2009	1	2	0.8	2	0	0	0
2008	2	9	1.8	8	1	11.1	55.6

Examination - A Level	Number of schools (Total = 15 secondary schools, 2010 onwards = 16)	Number of candidates	% of year group entered in these schools	Boys	Girls	%A-E (A*-E from 2011)
2012 Prov	10	117		45	72	99.1
2011	9	120		48	72	95.8
2010	10	110		36	74	96.4
2009	13	119		45	74	99.2
2008	12	126	5.4	61	65	100
2007	11	108	5.0	48	60	100
2006	9	77	8.8	23	54	98.7
2005	8	89	11.9	35	48	100
2004	10	75	4.3	23	52	100
2003	10	69	8.3	22	47	100
2002	8	64	9.4	15	49	98.4
2001	6	31	5.9	10	21	96.8

Examination - AS Level	Number of schools (Total = 15 secondary schools, 2010 onwards = 16)	Number of candidates	% of year group entered in these schools	Boys	Girls	%A-E
2012 Prov	10	42		17	25	88.1
2011	9	32		11	21	90.6
2010	8	31		11	20	93.5
2009	9	21	1.2	7	14	95.2
2008	9	32	1.8	16	16	93.8
2007	9	29	1.7	13	16	93.1
2006	7	27	4.1	9	18	77.8
2005	10	20	2.4	4	18	81.8
2004	10	46	2.7	10	36	91.3
2003	6	27	5.3	9	18	92.6
2002	6	22	3.6	7	15	95.5

B LIST OF ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH REPORT IS SENT

Our report will be sent, in electronic form, to Head teachers, Principals and Chairs of Governors of schools including voluntary schools, the Local Authority and NASACRE. It will be made available to teachers and parents on request.

The report will also be sent to the Directors of Services for Children and Young People and Chairs of SACRE in Devon, Torbay and Cornwall.

C THE DUTIES OF SACRE

SACRE primarily gives advice to the Local Authority about religious education in Community and Voluntary Controlled schools. It can give advice even if the Local Authority does not seek it, but the Local Authority is not obliged to act upon it. In two areas, however, SACRE's decision is binding.

Worship 'Determinations'

It has a duty to make a 'determination' if a community school applies for complete or partial exemption from the requirement that most acts of worship in a school term shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character reflecting the broad tradition of Christian belief in a manner appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils. (For example, there may be a preponderance of pupils of a faith other than Christianity.) It is important to note that SACRE cannot exempt a school from the requirement to provide some form of worship (even if not Christian worship) for all pupils on every school day. The act of worship need not be in the morning or for the whole school at one time and it is open to individual parents to withdraw their children by arrangement.

There have been no applications of this kind in Plymouth.

Review of Agreed Syllabus

The second matter which SACRE can insist upon is that the Local Authority should set up a conference to adopt (or write) a new or revised Agreed Syllabus. The Local Authority sub-group on SACRE does not vote on this issue.

In March 2006 SACRE appointed representatives from all four houses to serve on the Agreed Syllabus Conference convened by the Devon RE Adviser. This work took place over the following year and the launch of the new Agreed Syllabus, "Every Child Matters in RE", took place in July 2007.

Why a Report?

An Annual Report has been a legal requirement since the 1988 Education Act. The Education Act 1996, section 391.6 states:

'The Council shall in each year publish a report as to the exercise of their functions and any action taken by representative groups on the Council under Sub-Section 3 above during the last preceding year.'

(Sub-Section 3 refers to the procedure for requiring a review of the Agreed Syllabus). The Council's report shall in particular:

- a) specify any matters in respect of which the Council has given advice to the Authority;
- b) broadly describe the nature of the advice given; and where any such matter was not referred to the Council by the Authority, give the Council's reason for offering advice on that matter'.

DRAFT

D SACRE MEMBERS 2011 – 2012 ROSS TO UPDATE INFO

Group A: Christian and other religious denominations, not including Church of England.

Eight places

Mrs Pam Shelmerdine	Baptist Church
Ben Seal	Buddhist Community
Dr Jatindra Saha	Hindu Community
Mrs Zainab Abubakar	Muslim Community
Mrs Anna Kelly	Jewish Community
Ms Helena Mitchell	Methodist Church
Ms Fiona Hutchings	Roman Catholic Diocese of Plymouth
The Reverend Peter Chave	United Reformed Church

Group B: The Church of England, appointed by the Exeter Diocesan Board of Education

Five places (2 vacancies)

F. Richard Maudsley	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter
Mrs Catherine Bowness	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter
Mrs Val Armitage	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter
Mr Tim Lyddon	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter
Mr Jim Knight	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter

Group C: Teachers' Associations, who should nominate RE teachers

Nine places (two vacancies)

Martin Edmonds	NASUWT
Ms Gwen Hughes	NUT
Mr Pete Grainger	PASH (NAHT)
Ms Teresa Griffiths	NATRE
Philippa Bellows	VOICE
<i>Vacant</i>	UCU
Mrs Elizabeth Hill	PAPH (NAHT)
Mrs Alison Bradley	ATL
Heather Farrow	Special Schools

Group D: The Local Authority

Six places

Councillor David Stark
Councillor Jonathan Drear
Councillor Ken Foster
Councillor Ian Gordon
Councillor Mary Aspinall
Councillor Chaz Singh

Plymouth City Council
Plymouth City Council

Co-opted Representatives

Six places

Dr Barbara Wintersgill
Miss Caroline McVicker
Dr Clare Hamon
Father Gregory Carpenter
Mr Tony Blackler
Ben Kerr

RE Consultant
AST (Secondary)
Quaker Community
Greek Orthodox Community
Plymouth Association of Governors
Plymouth Humanist

Observer Members

Kerry Whittlesea
Jenny Evans

Youth Cabinet
Youth Cabinet

Officers

Mr Arnet Donkin

Senior Education Adviser – Equality
and Inclusion

Mr Jonathan Marshall
Mr Ross Johnston

Religious Education Adviser
Democratic Support Officer

E. NUMBER OF MEETINGS, RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF MAIN ISSUES DISCUSSED AT EACH MEETING

Plymouth SACRE meets once per term and has met on three occasions in the academic year 2011 – 2012

The Autumn Term meeting was held on 28th November 2011 at the Council House. Nineteen members and two officers were present and the issues discussed included:-

- Membership Issues
- Annual Report and Examination results
- National and Local Updates including:
English Baccalaureate implications
Religious Education Council
New OFSTED framework
- Holocaust Memorial Day plans
- Plymouth Centre for Faiths & Cultural Diversity – 10th Anniversary
- SACRE working groups – progress reports
- Unmet Needs in RE project

The Spring Term meeting was held on 5th March 2012 at the Central Methodist Hall. Fourteen members and two officers were present and the issues discussed included:-

- Membership Issues
- Holocaust Memorial Day – report on events
- OFSTED framework
- “Creating Conditions for Integration” – new strategy
- SACRE working groups – progress reports
- Visiting schools – opportunities for SACRE members
- Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity – news and events
- Unmet Needs in RE – funding secured from St Lukes Trust

The Summer Term meeting was held on 2nd July 2012 at the Plymouth Islamic Education Trust – PIETy. Sixteen members and two officers were present and the issues discussed included:-

- Membership Issues
- National and Local Updates
- NASACRE AGM – report
- Unmet Needs in RE project
- Minster Project - new work
- Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity – news and events
- OFSTED reports on Plymouth Schools - review
- RE - SMSC and “Collective Worship Re-visited” AREIAC document
- SACRE working groups update

Clerk to SACRE – Ross Johnston – Democratic Support Officer
Plymouth City Council RE Adviser – Jonathan Marshall MBE

This page is intentionally left blank

LEARN/TEACH/LEAD: Enhancing RE in the South-West

Briefing paper 3– for Standing Advisory Councils on RE

November 2012



The website has now been launched - www.ltIRE.org



from: Linda Rudge, Project Director

Dear SACRE member

Thank you for your partnership during the launch of the project. This paper is a report for Standing Advisory Councils meeting during the autumn term in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, in Devon, in Plymouth, and in Torbay. This first briefing paper for SACRE partners provides the context to the project and its aims, and introduces the different elements of the work to be achieved during the three years of its duration- 2012-15. It also focuses on the issues closely related to each SACRE's monitoring role and to the support of the initial and continuing education of teachers.

The Project

The original bid to St Luke's College Foundation highlighted the following issues that are relevant for teachers of RE nationally, and in the region.

'The overall aim of the project is to identify and address unmet needs of RE (Religious Education) teachers in Devon, Cornwall, Plymouth and Torbay and thereby to improve the quality of teaching & learning. The overall aim of the project is to identify and address unmet needs of RE (Religious Education) teachers in Devon, Cornwall, Plymouth and Torbay and thereby to improve the quality of teaching & learning outcomes, and leadership.'

The overall aim of the project is to identify and address unmet needs of RE (Religious Education) teachers in Devon, Cornwall, Plymouth and Torbay and thereby to improve the quality of teaching & learning outcomes, and leadership.

Project objectives:

1. To identify and prioritise what the unmet needs in RE are for the SW
2. To create plan and deliver a range of strategies to meet these needs such as:
 - An annual regional conference
 - Dissemination of good practice through the SWGfL (South West Grid for Learning)
 - Sustainable support networks for RE across the region in hubs
 - Developing a coherent approach to the teaching and learning in RE
3. To target the unmet needs of those new to RE teaching or subject leadership
4. To work together with interfaith groups and SACREs (Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education) where appropriate to develop and coordinate faith speaker services to schools
5. To strengthen links through working in partnership with LAs (Local Authorities), Dioceses, HEIs (Higher Education Institutions) and Faith Communities
6. To promote and share good practice in sustaining leadership and management for religious education especially in primary schools
7. *(agreed later with the funding agency)* To encourage 'A' level students to consider reading Theology at university.

The Role of Hub Leaders

So far we have appointed seven out of twelve project leaders for RE (PLREs) who are all teachers of RE in primary and secondary schools across the region. Another teacher in Plymouth is kindly acting as a reserve for this first year. We are still looking for five colleagues to fill the PLRE roles in Cornwall, Plymouth and North Devon.

Supported by steering group members, and by the equivalent of two days training each year, PLREs are expected to lead the hub groups in developing quality RE which raises standards and improves teacher knowledge and confidence. Their responsibilities are to:

- attend the training sessions for hub leaders (equivalent to 1.5 days per year)
- contribute to resource development in the project and utilise the website to promote good practice
- ensure all hub sessions are well planned with clear objectives and outcomes
- ensure that hub sessions are well attended and administered (venues, refreshments, materials).

Details about dates of hub meetings and venues will be posted on the website and sent round to schools through partnership networks. Appointments so far:

Nicola Bonell	St Mary's (CE) Primary, Penzance	West Cornwall (PY)
Rachel Willcocks	Exmouth Community College	Exeter and East Devon (SY)
Sarah Hopkins	Drake's (CE) Primary School East Budleigh	Exeter and East Devon (PY)
Joseph Matthews	Ilfracombe Community College	North Devon (SY)
Corrine Price	Wolborough (CE) Primary, Newton Abbot	Torbay area (PY)
Charlotte Caluori	St Cuthbert Mayne (RC/CE) Secondary, Torquay	Torbay area (SY)
Ian Hartley	The Ridgeway School, Plymouth	Plymouth (SY)
Simon Knight	All Saints Academy Plymouth	(Reserve – Plymouth and southern areas)

The Role of the Project Director

I was appointed to this role during the summer term of 2012. My responsibilities are to:

- oversee selection and support for lead RE practitioners
- prepare and deliver high quality RE input to project participants to enrich learning and improve standards in the subject
- liaise with hub leaders so that hub sessions are purposeful, focussed and lead to improved learning in RE, addressing the identified areas of weakness in the subject
- coordinate training of the faith communities
- provide the trust with annual reports of the project's progress and a final summative evaluation of the project and its impact on participants
- plan the annual residential conferences, in partnership with the steering group and hub leaders
- liaise with South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) in ensuring ICT (information and communication technology)/ website is effectively utilised to enhance the quality of the project and resources developed during the project are shared effectively and promoted nationally – **(NB – October 2012 – the project is developing its own website as a response to the emerging theory that not enough schools in the project are using SWGfL as the main virtual environment)**
- liaise with the administrator in ensuring all aspects of the project (conferences, hub sessions, training for hub leaders, steering group meetings) are clearly and effectively administered.

The Role of the Steering Group

The steering group represents partners across the region and includes SACRE members. The group's role is to:

- provide guidance and support in terms of shaping the key priorities in the project and monitor the development of the project
- actively contribute to the conferences, training sessions for hub leaders and development of support materials
- attend steering group meetings (twice yearly)
- where practicable support the hub sessions
- support the project directors in the effective leadership of the project

Membership of the steering group

Exeter Diocesan Board of Education: Tatiana Wilson
Truro Diocesan Board of Education: Irene Pooley
Cornwall LA/SACRE: David Hampshire
Devon LA/SACRE: Ed Pawson
Torbay LA/SACRE: David Hampshire
Plymouth LA/SACRE: Jonathan Marshall
University of Exeter: Karen Walshe
University College of St Mark and St John: Teresa Griffiths
Teacher representative: Giles Freathy
St Luke's College Foundation (Trustees): Dick Powell and Barbara Wintersgill
In attendance: project director (Linda Rudge) and project administrator

There are some budget constraints on the size of the group (originally 7) and on the frequency and location of meetings. Partner organisations can suggest substitutions for meetings if a member is unable to attend.

2012 conference: 'The Teacher as the Key to Successful RE'

This launch conference in Plymouth was attended by 64 delegates and speakers, mainly teachers from primary and secondary schools (approximately - 10 from Cornwall, 24 from Devon, and 19 from Plymouth and Torbay.) The programme lived up to its promise to provide opportunities for teachers and other educators in the region to enjoy positive experiences of continuing professional development at another challenging time in the history of this subject. All the evaluations showed how much teachers and other guests appreciated this opportunity. Our two nationally renowned keynote speakers (Mark Chater and Dilwyn Hunt) presented sessions that raised (and answered) questions about the meaning of 'learning from 'religion, and about assessment for learning in RE. Workshop and session leaders from the steering group, and the PLREs, added to the professional and academic challenges presented by the keynote speeches. These sessions also provided teachers with an excellent start to the CPD promised in this project.

'Unmet needs'

Focus group discussions at the conference with reporting cards enabled us to carry out some checks on the project's list of 'unmet CPD needs' identified in a questionnaire which supported the bid for funding. OFSTED priorities in 2010 for CPD were identified in the bid (below), and they will be

familiar to SACRE members. The focus group data suggests that the initial research was accurate in identifying the broad needs of RE teachers, especially those who cannot regularly access CPD on-line or in direct contact with providers.

CPD needs tend to be associated with uncertainties about RE:

- *‘the core purpose of the subject*
- *how attainment is defined*
- *the way pupils’ progress is defined*
- *how key concepts and questions can be used in RE*
- *how to secure continuity and progression in the RE curriculum*
- *the way to structure and define a clear process of learning in RE*
- *the approach to teaching about Christianity*
- *ways of balancing the need to foster respect for pupils’ religions and beliefs within open, critical, investigative learning in RE*
- *the place of teaching about humanism and non-religious beliefs.*

(OFSTED, 2010¹).

The conference data can be clustered around these headings, although the approach to teaching about Christianity is not explicitly identified as an ‘unmet need’ in the SW region; this might indicate a misconception about this area not that ‘all is well’. There were others, such as the ambiguous legal position of RE in different school settings and its impact on continuity and progression. The need to celebrate the diverse nature of religion, religions, spiritualities and worldviews represented in agreed syllabuses was mentioned by several groups, with a plea for more resources and opportunities to enable interfaith dialogue in (and beyond) schools. Some responses were clear in their requests for more exemplification of units of work and examples of pupils’ learning. Teachers in at least three discussion groups were also keen to observe outstanding practice in other schools, and the role and needs of HLTAs teaching the subject was also raised.

Many of the responses at the conference also indicated an individualised path to learning, or particular school needs; these might be beyond the scope of the current project. Other providers (e.g. RE-Online, the RE Quality Mark and the National Association for Teachers of RE) are already working with us in our efforts to support teachers and other educators across the south-west.

The next briefing paper with an updated report on the project will be circulated at the end of the Spring school term, 2013.

¹ Office for Standards in Education (2010) *Transforming religious education: Religious Education in Schools 2006-2009*. London: OFSTED.

This page is intentionally left blank