

Public Document Pack



Tracey Lee
Chief Executive

Plymouth City Council
Civic Centre
Plymouth PL1 2AA

Please ask for Helen Rickman,
Democratic Support Officer
T 01752 398444
E helen.rickman@plymouth.gov.uk
www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy
9 July 2013

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Wednesday 17 July 2013
10.00 am
Council House, Plymouth (Next to the Civic Centre)

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

Tracey Lee
Chief Executive

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PART I

AGENDA

PART I – PUBLIC MEETING

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

SACRE will appoint a Chair and Vice Chair for the forthcoming year from Groups B and D.

2. APOLOGIES

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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. MINUTES

(Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2013.

6. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Chair will welcome new members to the forum and provide an update on membership.

7. PROPOSAL TO ELECT A HUMANIST REPRESENTATIVE ONTO GROUP A

The RE Advisor will propose to elect a Humanist Representative onto Group A.

8. THE NATIONAL RE PICTURE

The RE Advisor will provide a verbal update on the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) Annual General Meeting and will lead discussions on the 'state of RE'.

9. ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON RE

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

10. TOWARDS A PLYMOUTH RE SYLLABUS

The RE Advisor will provide a verbal update regarding the topic, 'Towards a Plymouth RE Syllabus'.

11. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP RESOURCE - LAUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

Liz Hill and Katie Freeman will provide an update on the launch arrangements for the Collective Worship Resource.

12. LOCAL RE UPDATES

SACRE members will be provided with Local RE updates.

I2a REC/ Plymouth Centre For Cultural Diversity (PCFCD)
Sponsored RE walk

I2b Faith Diversity DVD

I2c Holocaust Memorial Day - Plans for January 2014

I2d LearnTeachLeadRE

(Pages 5 - 8)

13. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 11 November 2013 at a venue to be confirmed.

14. 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.

This page is intentionally left blank

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Monday 4 March 2013

PRESENT:

Miss H Mitchell , in the Chair.

Councillor Aspinall, Mrs Bowness, Mrs Bradley, Penny Burnside, Councillor Gordon, Ms T Griffiths, Mrs E Hill, Dr C Hamon, Anna Kelly, Mr B Kerr, Miss C McVicker, Dr Saha, Mrs P Shelmerdine, Councillor Singh, Mrs C Slow, Councillor Stark, Dr B Wintersgill.

Apologies for absence: Councillor P Davey, Councillor Drean, Mr P Grainger and Councillor Ricketts.

Also in attendance: Mr J Marshall (RE Adviser) and Mr A Pearson (Member Training and Development Officer).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.40 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.

67. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by SACRE members.

68. **MINUTES**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2012 are confirmed as a correct record subject to Reverend Chave being noted as having been in attendance.

69. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair reported that Reverend Chave and Mr Seel had resigned from SACRE.

70. **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

The Chair welcomed Penny Burnside, representing Group A, to her first SACRE meeting and noted that Katie Freeman, representing Group C, had just been appointed.

71. **SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2011 TO 2012**

The RE Adviser stated that a number of minor amendments had been made to the draft SACRE annual report.

Agreed that the SACRE annual report is noted.

72. **SUMMER 2012 EXAMINATION RESULTS**

The RE Adviser commented that there were concerns that –

- (a) while senior leadership teams would rightly challenge departments to raise standards, focussing on the promotion of higher grades might lead to a reduction or even the cessation of RE if GCSE results did not show improvement;
- (b) ongoing curriculum pressures for improvement with less time and resources available would eventually impact on schools achieving good examination results in RE.

Dr Saha expressed the view that policy makers had differing views of RE, and that RE's importance as a self-development aid as well as a results based curriculum course should be acknowledged.

Ms Griffiths expressed the view that SACREs should be targeting and advising schools about RE, emphasising that it added value and encouraging them to invest in it, with measurable outcomes.

73. **HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2013 FEEDBACK**

The RE Adviser informed members that both the public exhibition and schools event in the Roland Levinsky Building on 25 January 2013, and the annual civic ceremony of remembrance at Mount Edgumbe on 27 January 2013, had been very successful and well supported.

The RE Adviser proceeded to read out some positive examples of first hand feedback from these events.

74. **PREPARING FOR OFSTED - SELF EVALUATION FORMS AND RE, SMSC AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Mrs Hill advised SACRE members that while not a statutory requirement that a Self-Evaluation Form (SEF) be completed prior to an Ofsted school inspection, it was deemed good practice to do so, and would provide evidence to support claims made by the school under the following four categories –

- the achievement of pupils at the school;
- quality of teaching;
- behaviour and safety of pupils;
- quality of leadership and management of the school.

Mrs Hill added that each category could contain evidence of spiritual, moral, social and cultural processes in the school, which the Ofsted inspection could comment on in the final report when considering also the effectiveness of the school.

The Chair advised that the Self-Evaluation Form from Hyde Park Infant School that had been circulated to members just prior to the meeting would be considered under Part II.

75. **NATIONAL AND LOCAL UPDATES**

Dr Wintersgill advised that –

- (a) the report of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Education was due to be published on 28 March 2013, with an earlier press launch;
- (b) this was the first time that a report on RE had been produced for Members of Parliament, and as such it presented an excellent opportunity to address the various issues and possibly effect change.

Agreed that the report form an agenda item at the next SACRE meeting.

76. **PLYMOUTH CENTRE FOR FAITHS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

The RE Adviser reminded SACRE members that a new project was being funded that would explore the diversity of faith among young people in Plymouth via the production of a dvd.

Fiona Evans proceeded to show excerpts from the dvd, although it was noted that this was only a rough cut.

The RE Adviser commented that the likely audience for the dvd was secondary school pupils and teachers, but that consideration could be given at a later date to produce a similar dvd aimed at younger pupils.

Agreed that Fiona Evans be thanked for her presentation.

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

The Chair advised that the date of the next meeting would be circulated to SACRE members following confirmation of the programme of Council meetings at the Annual General Meeting on 17 May 2013.

78. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

Agreed that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

79. **PREPARING FOR OFSTED - SELF EVALUATION FORMS AND RE, SMSC AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (E3)**

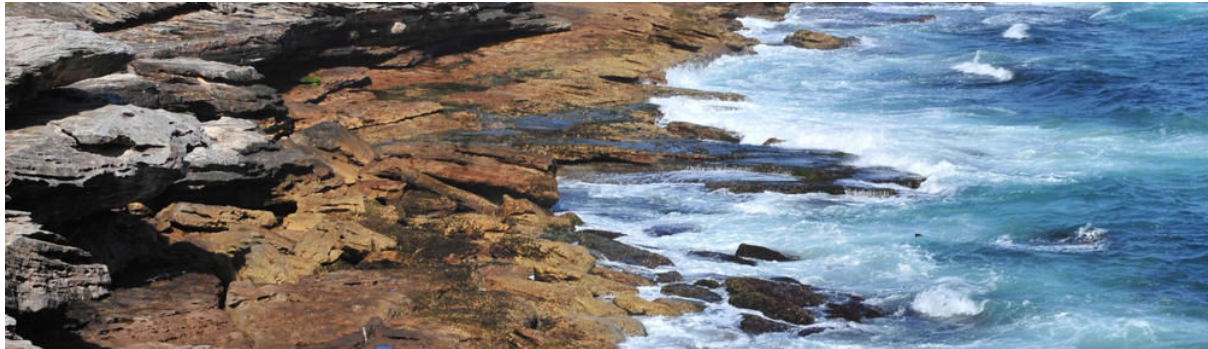
Agreed that Mrs Hill be thanked for her presentation.

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Briefing paper 4 – for Standing Advisory Councils on RE in the south-west

May 2013



The website has now been launched - www.ItIRE.org and is under development with Project Lead Teachers (PLREs) and Steering Group members.

From: Linda Rudge, Project Director

Dear SACRE member

Thank you for your interest and partnership in the project. This paper is a report for Standing Advisory Councils meeting during the summer term in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, in Devon, in Plymouth, and in Torbay. This second briefing paper for SACRE partners reminds members of 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. The paper also updates members on hub developments and appointments of PLREs, and contains information about the next conference (October 2013).

The Project

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. It intends to achieve this by the leadership of local teachers in clusters/hubs across the region, working closely with established advisory staff in local authorities, diocesan boards of education and universities.

An additional bid to St Luke's for an enhancement grant to sustain growth in 2013-15 has been submitted (June 2013). We are also planning a bid for the continuation of the project beyond its current 'end date' of 2015.

Hub Leaders

We have appointed nine out of twelve project leaders for RE (PLREs) who are all teachers of RE in primary and secondary schools across the region, and one reserve. We are still looking for three colleagues to fill the PLRE roles in Cornwall.

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.

Details about dates of hub meetings and venues are posted on the website and they are sent round to schools through partnership networks.

PLRE	e-mail contact	Home/ school base	HUB/area
Nicola Bonell	nicolabonell@hotmail.com	St Mary's (CE) Primary, Penzance	West Cornwall(PY)
			West Cornwall (SY) – appointment pending June 2013
Rachel Willcocks	Rachel.Hughes@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk	Exmouth Community College	Exeter and East Devon (SY)
Sarah Hopkins	sarah.hopkins2@live.co.uk	Drake's (CE) Primary School East Budleigh	Exeter and East Devon (PY)
Joseph Matthews	jmatthews@ilfracombecollege.devon.sch.uk	Ilfracombe Community College	North Devon (SY)
Gill Tewkesbury	gtewkesbury@piltonbluecoat.devon.sch.uk	Pilton Bluecoat School, Barnstaple	North Devon - PY
Corrine Price	corrineprice@hotmail.co.uk	Wolborough (CE) Primary, Newton Abbot	Newton Abbot/ Torbay Area
Charlotte Caluori	Charlotte.Caluori@stcm.torbay.sch.uk	St Cuthbert Mayne (RC/CE) Secondary	Newton Abbott/ Torbay Area
Ian Hartley	HartleyI@ridgeway.plymouth.sch.uk	The Ridgeway School, Plymouth	Plymouth (SY) and website lead
Katie Freeman	katiefreeman@blueyonder.co.uk	Hyde Park Infants, Plymouth	Plymouth - PY
			East Cornwall – PY and SY vacancies
Simon Knight	sknight@asap.org.uk	All Saints Academy Plymouth	SY – reserve Plymouth area

Hub Meetings

These are now underway in all areas and some have met twice. Steering group members and the project director are leading in areas where PLREs are yet to be appointed. Reports of the meetings are added to the website by PLREs.

Training for PLREs

The first training day took place in Plymouth in January 2013, and we followed up the themes around assessment (especially AT2) and subject knowledge (Judaism) which were also discussed at the first annual conference in Plymouth. The second training date is 27th June (Exeter). Leaders will include Jonathan Marshall from Plymouth's SACRE, Tatiana Wilson from Exeter DBE, and Linda Rudge (Project Director). Training sessions will focus on planning RE, and managing hub meetings.

The Steering Group

The steering group contributes actively to hub meetings, the conference, and strategic developments. It represents partners across the region, and includes SACRE members:

Current 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 and NATRE: Ed Pawson
Torbay LA/SACRE: David Hampshire
Plymouth LA/SACRE: Jonathan Marshall
University of Exeter: Karen Walshe
University of St Mark and St John: Teresa Griffiths
Teacher representative (St Luke's Foundation): Giles Freathy
St Luke's College Foundation (Trustees): Dick Powell and Barbara Wintersgill

2013 conference – 'Sustaining RE: the Art of Subject Leadership'

This will take place at Dartington Hall near Totnes, Devon. Keynote speakers at this beautiful and historic venue will include Mr Alan Brine, HMI, National Adviser for RE who will focus on the forthcoming long report from OFSTED on RE. It is a free event for all teachers of RE (state sector) in Devon and Cornwall. Workshops will include *RE-Route*, *RE-Online* and presentations from Project Lead Teachers of RE, and local RE advisers from across the south-west region.

We are intending to bring the third (possibly the final) conference to Cornwall next year. Suggestions for venues are welcomed.

'Unmet Needs in RE' (reported in first briefing paper)

CPD needs identified in the research underpinning the project 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 project's 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 are others, such as the ambiguous legal position of RE in different school settings and the impact of this ambiguity on continuity and progression. The need to celebrate the diverse nature of religion, religions, spiritualities and worldviews represented in agreed syllabuses have all been mentioned in hub groups, with a plea for more resources and opportunities to enable interfaith dialogue in (and beyond) schools. There have also been requests for more exemplification of units of work and examples of pupils' learning. Teachers are keen to observe outstanding practice in other schools.

During this first year, PLREs have reported increasing anxiety in schools about RE's position in the curriculum and its status in schools.

Our findings also indicate that individualised paths to learning, or particular school needs, are probably 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 report to SACREs will be circulated following the conference in October 2013.

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