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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Monday 1 December 2014
1.30 pm
Central Methodist Hall, Plymouth

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. APOLOGIES

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

2. 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 7 July 2014.

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

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

6. SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2013 - 2014

(Pages 7 - 20)

Members are asked to consider the SACRE annual report and will receive a report on Religious Education examination results for summer 2014.

7. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 - 2018

(Pages 21 - 22)

Members are asked to consider the proposed development plan 2015 – 2018.

8. LEARNTEACHLEAD RE PROJECT AND POSSIBLE SACRE SUPPORT

(Pages 23 - 28)

Members will be provided with an update on the LearnTeachLeadRE project and possible SACRE support.

9. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2015

Members will be provided with the plans for Holocaust Memorial Day 2015, on 27 January 2015.

10. UPDATES ON RE DEVELOPMENTS

Members will be provided with updates on Religious Education developments.

11. SOUTH WEST SACRE CONFERENCE

Members will be provided with details of the 2015 SACRE conference, details of which have already been circulated.

12. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 9 March 2015 at a time and venue yet to be confirmed.

13. 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.

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Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Monday 7 July 2014

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs Aspinall, Vice Chair in the Chair (part meeting).

Mr Mark Andrew Dearden, Chair (part meeting).

Councillors Morris, Dr Salter and Singh.

Bakari Arabi, Alison Bradley, Catherine Bowness, Penny Burnside, Katie Freeman, Liz Hill, Helena Mitchell, Dr Jatindra Saha, Pam Shelmerdine and Alison Sturgeon.

Co-opted Representatives: Rev Gordon Cryer, Dr Clare Hamon and Ben Kerr

Apologies for absence: Councillors Drean and Stark and Martin Edmonds and Peter Grainger.

Also in attendance: Jonathan Marshall (RE Adviser) and Helen Wright (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 1.30 pm and finished at 3.40 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.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Councillors in accordance with the code of conduct.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Jonathan Marshall (RE Adviser) reminded members of the previous resolution in which the role of Chair and Vice Chair would be operated on a two year rotation basis between Groups A and C and Groups B and D.

Agreed that Groups B and D will continue in their roles as Chair and Vice Chair for the second year of their term of office.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that –

- (1) the Chair for the forthcoming municipal year will be Mr Mark Andrew Dearden (Group B);
- (2) the Vice Chair for the forthcoming municipal year will be Councillor Mrs Aspinall (Group D);
- (3) as this was Mr Mark Andrew Dearden's first meeting of SACRE, Councillor Mrs Aspinall would Chair this meeting;

- (4) members are provided with an up-to-date membership list detailing the Groups they represent.

3. **MINUTES**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2014 are confirmed as a correct record.

4. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

5. **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

The Chair welcomed Councillors Morris and Salter (group D), as well as, Bakari Arabi (Muslim rep group A) and Mark Andrew Dearden (group B) to their inaugural meeting of SACRE.

6. **PLYMOUTH AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RE**

Jonathan Marshall (RE Adviser) advised that –

- (a) in 2013/14 representatives from Plymouth, Devon and Torbay SACREs met to agree a new Religious Education syllabus for their respective schools;
- (b) additional emphases had been placed on the revised Religious Education syllabus in order to build on the success of the previous syllabus (Every Child Matters in RE); it also took into account two of the significant national reports on RE (Realising the Potential (Ofsted) and a Review of Religious Education in England (The Religious Education Council));
- (c) a distinct Plymouth approach had been developed to ensure that both children and young people explored Plymouth's unique heritage and diversity, whilst acknowledging the importance of their own spiritual development.

Following discussions, members were advised that –

- (d) Religious Education was a statutory subject of the school curriculum within maintained schools; whilst academies and free schools were contractually required through the terms of their funding to make provision for the teaching of RE to all pupils on the school roll; pupils from the age of 5 – 19 learnt about diverse religions and world views including Christianity and other principle religions;
- (e) the year four curriculum focused on Christianity and Islam, although there was flexibility in some schools to look at these religions earlier;

- (f) the revised syllabus provided children and young people with the opportunity to 'learn about' and 'learn from' religious beliefs, practices and values; it was also sufficiently detailed to ensure that the important issues were embraced.

Members agreed the adoption of the Engaging with Religion and Worldviews (a revised Religious Education syllabus for Plymouth schools with supporting statements, guidance and new emphases from September 2014).

7. **FUTURE SUPPORT FOR SACRE AND RE**

Jonathan Marshall advised that –

- (a) he would be retiring from Plymouth City Council as the Religious Education Adviser for schools and from the Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity, as the Director;
- (b) the role of Religious Education Adviser would be deleted from the council's structure;
- (c) Plymouth City Council had asked him to continue, on a limited basis (20 days per year) to support Religious Education through Plymouth SACRE;
- (d) his future role would include -
 - support for Plymouth SACRE;
 - setting up a Religious Education website which could be accessed through School Room;
 - working with a limited number of schools;
- (e) work would continue with the Learn/Teach/Lead RE project with Katie Freeman (Specialist Leader in Education for RE) and Ian Hartley managing the Plymouth Hub; it was hoped to extend the hub meetings from three to six per year; the meetings provided teachers with useful hints and resources for the classroom;
- (f) a funding bid in collaboration with the teaching school would be submitted for the RE hub.

Following discussions, members raised the following issues –

- (g) the hub meetings had been extremely popular and provided teachers with a practical opportunity to learn teaching techniques which empowered children to ask questions;
- (h) at least 20 primary schools had attended the hub meetings, although attendance from secondary schools was less;

- (i) the meetings were advertised through social media, although it would be extremely useful if direct contact details could be obtained, as this would ensure that all schools had the opportunity to attend a meeting.

The Chair took this opportunity to thank Jonathan Marshall for his hard work and dedication not only in his role as Religious Education Adviser for Plymouth City Council but also as Director for the Centre of Faith and Cultural Diversity.

8. **REVIEWING THE SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN/CREATION OF A NEW PLAN**

Jonathan Marshall (RE Adviser) advised that –

- (a) the current Development Plan 2011 – 2014 had been formally adopted by SACRE at its meeting held on 4 July 2011 (SACRE had previously agreed to produce a plan every three years in order to prioritise its work);
- (b) the existing plan included six key priorities, as follows -
 - to seek on-going opportunities to raise the profile of SACRE;
 - to establish a planned approach to the development of RE and particularly its contribution on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural life of the school;
 - to establish a biennial celebration/exhibition of RE work;
 - with Devon and Torbay SACREs, revise, as appropriate, the RE syllabus;
 - to revise guidance and identify key resources for collective worship;
 - to maintain and extend further the excellent work which contributes to community cohesion/social integration in schools and across the city;
- (c) it was hoped that the Development Plan for 2014 – 2017 would be available to ratify at the next SACRE meeting scheduled for 1 December 2014.

Agreed that –

- (1) new members will be provided with a copy of the 'In Heart and Action' DVD;
- (2) RE Adviser to contact SACRE members in September and plan a meeting for October with four group representatives to identify key priorities;
- (3) the Development Plan 2014 – 2017 is considered at the next SACRE meeting scheduled for 1 December 2014.

*(Councillor Mrs Aspinall left the meeting at the end of this agenda item).
(Mr Mark Andrew Dearden took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting).*

9. **NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL RE UPDATES**

Jonathan Marshall (RE Advisor) provided an RE update on national, regional and local issues, which highlighted the following key points –

- (a) the 'learn/teach/lead – enhancing RE in the South West' project aimed to identify and address unmet needs of RE teachers in Devon, Cornwall, Plymouth and Torbay in order to improve the quality of teaching and learning outcomes and leadership; this project was now in its second phase;
- (b) twelve out of the 14 project leaders for RE (PLREs) had been appointed and were all teachers of RE in primary and secondary schools across the region; the hub meetings were now taking place in all areas;
- (c) two training dates for the PLREs had taken place (February 2014 and June 2014); the annual conference would be held in October 2014;
- (d) although the role of the project director had already expanded it was likely to change in the third phase of the project from 2015 onwards;
- (e) the steering group had received a full report which addressed the impact of the project on teaching and learning, and leadership and management;
- (f) the steering group had agreed the project's third phase and a formal bid for funding would be made to the St Luke's Foundation in April 2015.

Members noted the update.

10. **HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2015 - "KEEP THE MEMORY ALIVE"**

Jonathan Marshall (RE Adviser) advised that –

- (a) 'Keep the Memory Alive' would be the theme for the Holocaust Memorial Day in 2015; the proposed date of 27 January 2015 would mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau; next year would also be the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia;
- (b) in order to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day a tree had been planted in the English Garden at Mount Edgcumbe Country Park in 2001 by the Lord Mayor of Plymouth City Council; an annual civic

ceremony of remembrance took place each year at the memorial tree;

- (c) a range of events had taken place across the city to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2014, which included –
- the annual civic ceremony of remembrance at the memorial tree at Mount Edgumbe;
 - students from schools and colleges from across the city gathered at Plymouth University for a series of talks, activities, workshops and a public art exhibition;
 - a four day visit from Solly Irving, a Holocaust survivor, who spoke at ten secondary schools and public meetings;
- (d) a motion had been agreed at the Full Council meeting held on 27 January 2014 to promote the importance of Holocaust Memorial days and to support annual commemorative events within the city, as well as, taking a stand against genocide, anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, hate crimes and discrimination.

Members noted the update.

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

Jonathan Marshall (RE Advisor) advised members that the next meeting would be held on Monday 1 December 2014, at a venue and time to be confirmed.

12. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.

SACRE REPORT



STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Annual Report

2013 - 2014

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FOREWORD

This has been a very busy and challenging year for Religious Education in Plymouth and for all members of Plymouth SACRE!

Two very important and significant reports came out in October which have helped to shape the future of RE across the land. First of all, the long awaited Ofsted Report - "Realising the Potential" which highlighted some serious weaknesses and inconsistencies in the teaching of RE across the country and, also in October, the Religious Education Council launched its own subject review of Religious Education. This important document, although containing non-statutory guidance, in effect, creates a suggested revised curriculum framework for RE.

Both reports were timely for us, as, together with SACRE colleagues from Devon and Torbay, we embarked on revising our own Agreed Syllabus.

The result was the launch, in July 2014, of "Engaging with Religion and Worldviews".

I want to thank all those who contributed, initially through the Agreed Syllabus Conference, and later through a smaller working party. We continue to share, across the three SACREs, the same scope, balance and structure, established through our previous syllabus - "Every Child Matters in RE". But we are delighted in adding, this time, a significant emphasis on the Plymouth story; through an exploration of our local heritage and diversity, whilst enabling our children and young people to explore their own spiritual development.

As we say in the syllabus, "We seek to create and develop a Religious Education syllabus that every school will want to provide and every pupil will want to study.

SACRE congratulates all students who were successful in their Religious Studies examinations in the summer. A big 'thank you' to all our teachers who are doing such a great job and important work in teaching RE and preparing our young people for adult life. It could be argued that in today's complex world, good quality Religious Education is more important than ever.

I would also like to thank all my SACRE colleagues for their enthusiasm and commitment in supporting and raising the profile of Religious Education in our schools, colleges and across the City.

Finally, although Jonathan Marshall, our hard working RE Adviser, will still be continuing to support RE through SACRE on a freelance basis, he stepped down from his full time post in July. For many years he has worked to promote better understanding of religious and cultural diversity through his Adviser role and as Director of the Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity. In thanking him for all he has done I think it is incumbent upon us all to ensure that this vital work, of bridge-building, continues across the City.

Councillor Mary Aspinall
Chair of Plymouth SACRE
November 2014

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.

I RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1.1 The Agreed Syllabus

In late 2013 and during the first two terms of 2014 SACRE representatives from Devon, Plymouth and Torbay SACREs met together as an Agreed Syllabus Conference to agree a new, revised syllabus for their respective schools. A small Working Party was convened and a new syllabus for Plymouth schools was the result of these discussions.

In short, by maintaining the scope, balance and structure of our previous syllabus, “Every Child Matters in RE” established over the past six years, we wanted to build on this solid foundation and integrate some new emphases, particularly around our local Plymouth heritage and diversity whilst enabling children and young people to explore their own spiritual journey.

As mentioned in the Foreword, the new Revised Syllabus “Engaging with Religion and Worldviews” is also derived and influenced by two recent and significant reports on RE - “Realising the Potential” Ofsted – October 2013 and “A Review of RE in England” The Religious Education Council – October 2013.

2 STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2.1 Background to exemplification of standards.

2.1.1 For several years now the absence of specific Ofsted comments during Inspection 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 website, provides exemplary support and guidance for teachers in schools and enables them to contribute significantly to their school’s Self Evaluation. It has also proved to be an excellent resource for parents.

Despite widespread debate about the use of the eight-level scale over many years we are clearly moving towards their removal.

However, our new syllabus proposes to retain the use of this scale, for the time being and, if useful, as a way of measuring progress and ensuring development.

2.2 Examination Results in Religious Studies (Provisional)

2.2.1 This year 11 Plymouth Secondary Schools entered a total of 752 candidates for the full GCSE examination in Religious Studies. This represents just under 27% of the year groups in these schools. 69% of students achieved grades A*-C, this compares with 76% nationally, and 98% achieved A*-G grades.

2.2.2 Owing to a different way of “counting” qualifications this year, short course data was not available to be included in this report.

2.2.3 11 Secondary Schools entered a total of 100 students for the Advanced Level Religious Studies examinations. 100% achieved grades A-E.

2.2.4 9 Secondary schools entered a total of 26 students for AS level and 96% 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.

2.2.5 SACRE congratulates all the candidates and their teachers 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, is now in its 13th year.

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 Centre continues to provide schools with a wide range of services. This year 55 schools subscribed to the Centre and one hundred and twenty visits were made by a wide range of speakers from the different religion and belief traditions. Twenty three visits were also made to non-subscribing schools. The feedback on these visits has been extremely

positive regarding the impact they have had on classroom learning and to the promotion of respect for religious and cultural diversity.

Solly Irving, a Jewish Holocaust survivor from London, spent four days with us in January. This was his 12th annual visit, in the week before Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD). He visited ten Secondary Schools/Colleges and was also invited for tea with the Lord Mayor Cllr Vivien Pengelly.

SACRE and the Centre also organised a very successful schools event at the Roland Levinsky Building on the University campus. Over two hundred young people attended during the day and 6 schools actively took part including The Military Kids Choir and the Young City Laureate.

With financial support from SACRE, the RE Adviser and a local freelance documentary film-maker, Fiona Evans, completed work on a DVD to raise awareness and deepen understanding of faith diversity in Plymouth. Twelve young people (Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists) shared their experiences, insights and wisdom. Entitled "In Heart and Action" the DVD was launched in December. Copies were distributed to every Plymouth school. Feedback from teachers has been very positive and encouraging.

4.2 Courses, Conferences and Meetings

Another successful joint teachers' conference for PSHEE/Citizenship and RE was held at Boringdon Park in October and over eighty teachers attended.

In the same week fifteen secondary RE specialist teachers gathered at Coombe Dean for the annual training day. The main focus was on developing a new syllabus in the light of the two major reports on RE from Ofsted and the RE Council.

In February Alan Brine, HMI addressed the three Devon SACREs at Buckfast Abbey on the recent Ofsted Report - "Realising the Potential". This may be the last long report. A number of Plymouth members attended.

Three SACRE members attended the South West SACRE Conference at Dillington in March.

The RE Adviser continues to support the LearnTeachLead RE project as a Steering Group member. The second annual conference for teachers was held at Dartington in October and was very successful. National speakers included Alan Brine HMI, National Adviser for RE and Lat Blaylock, RE Today Editor and Adviser. The theme was "Sustaining RE – developing the art of subject leadership".

From this innovative project support hubs have been created across the Southwest region. Our Plymouth hub is led by Ian Hartley (Ridgeway) and Katie Freeman (Hyde Park Infants). These provide a great source of support with activities and inspiration for teachers across all key stages. The group meets three times a year and we hope to be able to increase this to six times, next year.

Our new display boards have been a feature at a number of conferences and events over the year and this helps to promote the important work of SACRE.

The RE Adviser provided six INSET – twilight opportunities for Primary and Special school teachers and in addition led a further twelve sessions in schools.

5 Collective Worship

5.1 Monitoring and offering guidance on 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 2012 meeting, SACRE considered a document produced by NASACRE “Collective Worship Revisited” as a possible way forward and suggested resource/ guidance for schools.

Plymouth SACRE supported a Working Group, led by the Head teacher, Liz Hill and classroom teacher, Katie Freeman, from Hyde Park Infants School, created to develop resources for Collective Worship. Resource packs were distributed at two very successful events in November.

5.2 Complaints

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

6. LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

6.1 Devon and Torbay SACREs

As stated under 1.1 above, SACRE members from the three Authorities came together for some initial meetings at the beginning of discussions regarding the new Agreed Syllabus.

Much of the new syllabus remains common to all three Authorities.

The annual SW SACRE Conference at Dillington also provided a wonderful opportunity for colleagues to meet and share ideas and support.

6.2 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.

The RE Advisor attended the AGM in London in May where Stephen Lloyd MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on RE gave a very informative and encouraging keynote speech about the importance and future development of RE.

7. SACRE ARRANGEMENTS AND PRIORITIES

SACRE meets once per term and is supported by the following staff from Plymouth City Council: The RE Advisor 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 established to lend support to the current Plymouth SACRE Development Plan; the revised outline 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 Advisor;
- to establish a biennial celebration/ exhibition of RE work – Ms Teresa Griffiths;
- with Devon and Torbay SACREs, revise, as appropriate, the RE syllabus – RE Advisor;
- to revise guidance and identify key resources for collective worship – Mrs Liz Hill.

SACRE is mindful of the need to update this plan and some discussions were held at the July meeting. A small group hopes to meet before the end of term to identify priorities for the next three years. This plan will be presented to SACRE for adoption at its December meeting.

APPENDICES

A Religious Studies Examination Statistics 2001-2014

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
2014	11	752	27.0	267	485	69.0	98.0
2013	14	900	31.6	344	556	66.7	98.3
2012	15	970	36.7	387	583	62.9	97.5
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 - 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)
2014	11	100	8	30	70	100
2013	9	95	7.8	31	64	100)
2012	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
2014	9	26	2	11	15	96
2013	9	30	2.5	15	15	90
2012	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

At the end of 2013 Plymouth SACRE asked a representative from each of the four houses, together with the RE Adviser, to serve on the Agreed Syllabus Conference, convened by Devon County Council – it was chaired by Jeremy Roberts. This work took place and with further input from a specialist group, the launch of the new Revised Agreed Syllabus, “Engaging with Religion and Worldviews” was held at Plymouth Council House in July 2014.

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’.

D SACRE MEMBERS 2013 – 2014

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

Eight places (one vacancy)

Mrs Pam Shelmerdine	Baptist Church
Mr Barry Good	Buddhist Community
Dr Jatindra Saha	Hindu Community
Mr Bakari Arabi	Muslim Community
Mrs Anna Kelly	Jewish Community
Ms Helena Mitchell	Methodist Church
Mr Jamie Haselden	Roman Catholic Diocese of Plymouth
Vacant	United Reformed Church

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

Five places

Mr Mark Andrew Dearden	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter
Mrs Catherine Bowness	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter
Ms Penny Burnside	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter
Ms Katie Freeman	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter
Mrs Alison Sturgeon	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter

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

Nine places (three vacancies)

Mr Martin Edmonds	NASUWT
Ms Gwen Hughes	NUT
Mr Pete Grainger	PASH (NAHT)
Vacant	NATRE
Ms Elizabeth Hill	PAPH (NAHT)
Vacant	VOICE
Vacant	UCU
Mrs Alison Bradley	ATL
Mrs Heather Farrow	Special Schools

Group D: The Local Authority

Six places

Councillor Mary Aspinall	Plymouth City Council
Councillor Jonny Morris	Plymouth City Council
Councillor Chaz Singh	Plymouth City Council
Councillor Jonathan Drear	Plymouth City Council
Councillor Dr David Salter	Plymouth City Council
Councillor David Stark	Plymouth City Council

Co-opted Representatives

Six places

Ms Caroline McVicker
Dr Clare Hamon
Christoforos Mamas
Rev Gordon Cryer
Mr Ben Kerr
Dr Barbara Wintersgill

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

Officers

Mr Jonathan Marshall
Lynn Young

Religious Education Advisor
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 2013 – 2014

The Autumn Term meeting was held on 13 November 2013 at All Saints Church of England Academy, Plymouth. Fifteen members and three officers were present and the issues discussed included:-

- New members
- Humanist representation on SACREs
- Plans for Holocaust Memorial Day
- Launch of Collective Worship Resource Pack
- The Learn Teach Lead RE Project
- Examination results for Religious Studies – Summer 2013
- Plymouth SACRE's Annual Report
- Planning towards a Plymouth Dimension in the Revised Agreed Syllabus
- A co-opted SACRE representative for “Ambitious Plymouth”

The Spring Term meeting was held on 10 March 2014 at the Council House, Plymouth. Eighteen members and two officers were present and the issues discussed included:-

- Welcome to new members
- Report on Holocaust Memorial Day
- Towards a new Agreed Syllabus
- The RE Adviser's role and future SACRE support
- SACRE budget
- The RE Quality Mark
- Learn Teach Lead RE Project
- Collective Worship Resources
- “In Heart and Action” DVD launch
- NASACRE briefing and AGM
- South West SACRE Conference

The Summer Term meeting was held on 7 July 2014 at the Council House, Plymouth. Eighteen members and two officers were present and the issues discussed included:-

- Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair
- Welcome to new members
- Plymouth Agreed Syllabus for RE
- Future support for SACRE and RE
- Review of the SACRE Development Plan
- National, Regional and Local RE updates
- Plans for Holocaust Memorial Day – January 2015

Clerks to SACRE – Helen Rickman and Lynn Young – Democratic Support Officers
Plymouth RE Advisor – Jonathan Marshall

Plymouth SACRE Proposed Development plan for 2015 - 2018

This is a way of highlighting our key priorities and work over the next three years. This can, of course change and be amended to take account of changes in national or local RE issues, as determined by SACRE. An annual budget of approximately £5.000 is available for this work.

A small group of us met at the beginning of October at the Council House. After a brief summary and review of our current plan we identified the following key areas/priorities we feel would support the future development of RE across the city. With reduced support time for SACRE, from the RE Adviser and the introduction of a new revised syllabus we were mindful of the need to be realistic about what is possible!

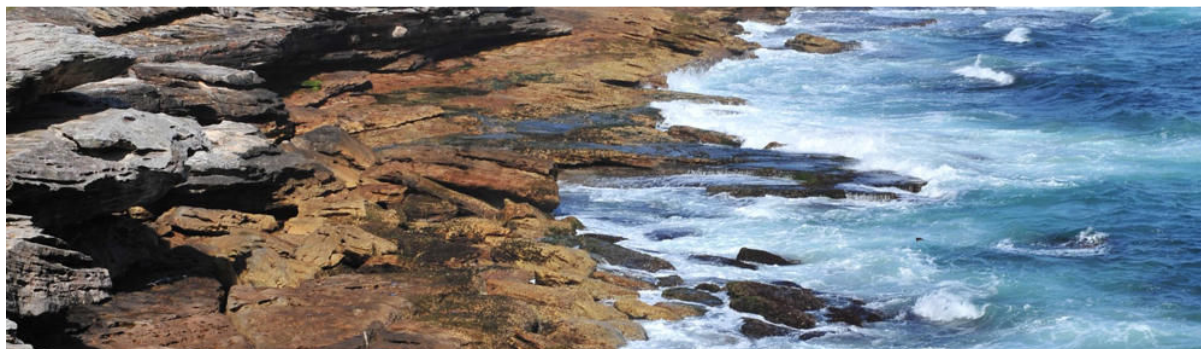
- Support for teachers to develop some new, creative and interactive schemes of work to support the new syllabus and the new emphases (heritage, diversity and spirituality) including a review of the syllabus across Plymouth schools during the summer term;
- SACRE to make available some curriculum project funds for schools to support innovative RE projects with links to and in collaboration with local faith communities, highlighting the importance of local understanding and good quality RE;
- SACRE to support promotional events/celebrations of RE, including HMD.

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

Briefing paper 14 –for SACREs and Steering Group members

October 2014



This paper is the regular update for SACREs and for members of the steering group.

Colleagues can find out more on the website www.ltlre.org. The project is also very active on *Twitter* – have a look at [@ltlre](https://twitter.com/ltlre) for the most recent conversations and conference photos. This paper is based on a recent Newsletter to schools across the region. It also contains specific information for project partners and a request for support (see page 4).

What is ‘Learn/Teach/Lead RE’?

The project is a learning partnership project for Religious Education with a focus on creating a community of enquiry and professional development across the southwest peninsula. *LTLRE* was launched in October 2012 through funding in excess of £100,000, for a three year period, from the St Luke’s College Foundation <http://www.st-lukes-foundation.org.uk/> The funding means that the CPD enjoyed by increasing numbers of teachers is FREE to teachers of RE in state funded primary and secondary schools. This is the third full year of its programme.

Quality Assurance

The project is being externally evaluated by Dr John Gay of Oxford University. Dr Barbara Wintersgill, formerly HMI and national adviser on RE, is leading the internal evaluation. The project’s steering group is chaired by Tatiana Wilson (Exeter Diocesan Board of Education, which is also the administrative centre) and the Project Director is Linda Rudge (freelance education consultant). Project partners include PLREs’ schools, and the local education authorities and Standing Advisory Councils for RE in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay. Exeter and Truro Church of England Dioceses support the project

through their Boards of Education. Higher Education partners are the University of St Mark and St John Plymouth, and the University of Exeter.

DATE for your DIARY - 2015

We are pleased to announce that St Luke's Trustees have agreed to fund a fourth annual conference in October 2015. The venue and date are to be confirmed, but we are aiming for the 15th and 16th October at Dartington Hall, near Totnes. Please watch out for further details on the website and through school mailings. Enrolment usually begins after Easter, and we are usually oversubscribed.

Hub Leaders (PLREs)

The main aim of the project is to identify and address unmet needs of RE teachers in Devon, Cornwall, Plymouth and Torbay. It also aims to improve the quality of teaching & learning outcomes, and subject leadership. The aims are achieved through the leadership of local teachers (Project Leaders of RE – PLREs) in hubs across the region. These teachers are working closely with established advisory staff in local authorities, in diocesan boards of education and in universities. There is an emphasis in the project on the needs of newly-qualified or early RE career teachers, and on the needs of teachers and teaching assistants with other specialisms and responsibilities.

We have now appointed fifteen out of sixteen project leaders for RE (PLREs) who are all teachers of RE in primary and secondary schools across the region. New hubs have been created in mid/north Cornwall and in south Devon this year.

Supported by steering group members, and by the equivalent of two days training each year, PLREs lead the hub groups in developing quality RE across the south-west region. We have referred in our training to the 'RE Quality Mark' standards and have encouraged schools to participate in this scheme where appropriate and feasible <http://www.reqm.org/> Hubs are also formally linked to the National Association of RE Teachers (NATRE) <http://www.natre.org.uk/> PLREs have benefitted from their training and increased confidence in their subject leadership as well as sharing their own expertise locally, regionally and nationally. Congratulations have been passed on by the project team to Gill Tewkesbury for winning a Hockerill prize (see link below) and for receiving a Farmington Fellowship, and to Katie Freeman for her recent article in *RE Today*.

For further information about awards and prizes that might be of interest to your school or organisation please have a look at <http://www.hockerillfoundation.org.uk/natre-prize-2014.aspx> and http://www.farmington.ac.uk/fellowships_and_awards/fellowships.html

Hub Meetings

Details about dates of termly hub meetings and venues are posted on the website and they are sent round to schools through partnership networks and by PLREs. Meetings are usually in twilight sessions and the venues change in order to involve as many schools as possible within each area. Some hubs use a Newsletter compiled by the PLREs to keep people in touch between meetings. Reports of the meetings are added to the website by PLREs through the website leader, Ian Hartley.

Project Developments

We are still looking for a primary colleague to fill the role of PLRE in Torbay now that the South Devon hub is established – Corrine is currently primary PLRE in both hubs. Please contact Linda on ludge@waitrose.com for further details. In the next phase of the project (2015-17) we will be looking for other funding partners to support the costs of the hub meetings. If you are in a teaching school or an education alliance looking to create RE networks, we would be really pleased to hear from you – contact Linda Rudge on ludge@waitrose.com or Tatiana Wilson on tatiana.wilson@exeter.anglican.org for further details.

The steering group will be planning the 2015 conference with the help of PLREs. Suggestions for a theme and speakers from SACRE members would be welcomed as we consider the plans during the year.

Annual Conference 2014

In response to suggestions from last year's evaluation, and to events during the year, we chose our theme '*The Learning Journey in RE: Leading the Way through Religious Understanding*' to reflect the important contribution Religious Education makes to good community relations <http://religionseducationcouncil.org.uk/appg/news/2014-03-17/re-and-good-community-relations> Conference delegates in 2013 requested further opportunities to boost their own subject knowledge and understanding through meeting members of faith communities. We organised this for the 2014 event, mainly through the support of the Centre for Faiths and Diversity in Plymouth <http://www.pcfcd.co.uk/>

Our outstanding keynote speakers were Lat Blaylock from *RE Today*, <http://www.retoday.org.uk/>, and Dr Geoff Teece and Dr Karen Walshe, both from the University of Exeter <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/>. Dr Rob Freathy and Giles Freathy led the thought-provoking plenary session using the materials from their highly successful 'RE-Searchers' project which has attracted the Humanities prize this year from the Times Educational Supplement <http://www.tesawards.co.uk/tessa2014/winners> We were also entertained and educated by John Keast, OBE, formerly Chair of the RE Council of England

and Wales, and RE adviser for Cornwall, at the conference dinner. Materials from the conference, and a programme, are available on the website, under the 'Learning' heading. Evaluations from the conference showed that for the majority of delegates the conference aims were met or exceeded, and we are grateful to everyone who made this third conference as successful as the previous two events.

Funding arrangements

A bid to support the continuation of the project with revised funding levels will be presented to the St Luke's Foundation in the Spring term of 2015. This bid will be based on a formative proposal made last year in which the main aim is to seek other forms of funding for some areas and to move to self-sustaining elements of the programme. The project currently revolves around a) hubs, b) the leaders (PLREs), c) the annual conference (currently free to delegates) and d) a training programme for PLREs. The termly steering group meetings also attract a cost.

The steering group will be considering which areas should be seen as the priority at their meetings in November and February, and how these can be made sustainable beyond the proposed two-year extension.

In the feedback on the formative proposal from St Luke's to the project's team it was noted that the Trustees 'welcome and celebrate the success of the project to date'. The project is widely seen as successful and this model of CPD is being used as an exemplar by others around the country. Comments from internal and external assessors are also very positive. The Trustees are keen to see a sustainable model for the long term emerge from their initial substantial investment.

An item for SACRE and other organisational agendas?

The project's team firmly believes that confident and reflective teachers are the key to successful RE. The role of SACREs and of our other partners in securing this innovative and successful model of RE training across the south-west is also vital to its continuation.

We would appreciate it if all our partners could raise the issue of future funding and partnership activity through the appropriate channels in your organisations. Please contact the Project Director, Linda Rudge, on lrudge@ewaitrose.com if you require further details about the current funding levels and partnership arrangements. Thank you.

We wish you a peaceful and fulfilling year for staff and pupils in all our schools.

'Schools and colleges are a safe and trusted place to explore religions, conflict and world views in a constructive and positive way... This prepares children for the challenges and opportunities of multi-cultural life, and helps them live harmoniously with others'. Stephen Lloyd, MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on RE

PLRE/hub contact details as of October 2014:

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Sarah Hopkins	shopkins@drakes.devon.sch.uk	Drake's (CE) Primary School East Budleigh	Exeter and East Devon - PY
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Corrine Price	corrineprice@wolborough-primary.devon.sch.uk	Wolborough (CE) Primary, Newton Abbot	Torbay - PY and South/mid Devon - PY
Charlotte Caluori	Charlotte.Caluori@stcm.torbay.sch.uk	St Cuthbert Mayne (RC/CE) Secondary, Torquay	Torbay - SY
Ian Hartley	HartleyI@ridgeway.plymouth.sch.uk	The Ridgeway School, Plymouth	Plymouth (SY) and website lead
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