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## **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Monday 29 June 2015

1.30 pm

Council House, Plymouth (Next to 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. 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 - 10)**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2015.

##### **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. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

The RE Adviser will provide a membership update.

##### **6. SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The RE Adviser will provide members with details of the SACRE Development Plan and advise Members of the priorities for this year.

##### **7. LEARNTEACHLEAD RE PROJECT (Pages 11 - 16)**

Katie Freeman will provide members with a report on the LearnTeachLead RE project, and news about the Plymouth hub meetings.

##### **8. PLYMOUTH CENTRE FOR FAITHS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

The RE Adviser will provide members with details of the services that the Centre offers to Plymouth schools.

## **9. NATIONAL AND LOCAL RE NEWS AND UPDATES**

Members will be provided with updates on national and local SACRE issues.

## **10. NASACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM MAY 2015**

Councillor Dr Salter will provide members with an update on the 2015 NASACRE Annual Conference and AGM.

## **11. PLYMOUTH SACRE'S RESPONSE TO LORD NASH'S LETTER/FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS FROM DEVON SACRE REGARDING OFSTED INSPECTIONS (Pages 17 - 18)**

The RE Adviser will lead a discussion on Plymouth SACRE's response to Lord Nash's letter, and further developments from Devon SACRE regarding Ofsted inspections.

## **12. THE 'PREVENT DUTY' AS PART OF THE SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL SCHOOLS**

The RE Adviser will provide members with information surrounding the 'Prevent Duty' as part of the safeguarding responsibility for all schools.

## **13. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members will discuss the timing and location of the remainder of the meetings for the municipal year 2015-16.

## **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.

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## **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

**Monday 9 March 2015**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor Mrs Aspinall, Vice Chair, in the Chair.

Councillors Morris, Singh and Dr Salter.

Bakari Arabi, Catherine Bowness, Penny Burnside, Shelley Catchpole, Katie Freeman, Jatindra Saha and Alison Sturgeon.

Co-opted Representatives: Reverend Gordon Cryer and Dr Clare Hamon.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Drean and Stark.

MarkAndrew Dearden, Martin Edmonds, Barry Good, Pete Grainger, Gwen Hughes, Anna Kelly, Christoforos Mamas and Caroline McVicar.

Also in attendance: Linda Rudge (Project Director, Learn, Teach, Lead RE), Jonathan Marshall (RE Advisor) and Lynn Young (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 1.32 pm and finished at 3.57 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.*

### 25. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### 26. **MINUTES**

Members reviewed the minutes and it was highlighted that the list of attendees should read 'Anna Kelly', not 'Ann Kelly'.

Agreed that subject to the list of attendees being amended as above the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2014 are confirmed as a correct record.

### 27. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

### 28. **MEMBERSHIP**

Jonathan Marshall, RE Adviser, advised members that –

- (a) the status of Christoforos Mamas's membership was still unresolved, as he was now eligible to be the UCU rep in Group C, as opposed to the Greek Orthodox

Community rep;

- (b) it had been difficult to find a Buddhist Community rep for Group A following the resignation of Barry Good;
- (c) three Members had recently been contacted due to their non-attendance over the last year; if they did not respond the RE Adviser would seek alternative representatives.

29. **SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Jonathan Marshall, RE Adviser, discussed the SACRE development plan and advised members that –

- (a) the amount of the SACRE budget for 2015-2016 was not yet known;
- (b) the SACRE Development Plan influenced how the SACRE budget was spent;
- (c) the development plan highlighted three areas of importance –
  - support for teachers to develop some new, creative and interactive schemes of work to support the new syllabus and the new emphases of heritage, diversity and spirituality, to include 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 understanding and good quality RE;
  - SACRE to support promotional events and celebrations of RE, including Holocaust Memorial Day;
- (d) funds had been offered to schools to enable them to develop innovative projects; however take up had been poor, and the money had been used to produce extra copies of the Agreed Syllabus document.

Members were advised that the money that remained in the current budget would not 'roll-over' to the next financial year. A suggestion for spending the remainder of the budget included inviting a high calibre speaker to attend a SACRE dinner/evening meeting.

30. **LEARNTEACHLEAD RE PROJECT**

Linda Rudge, Project Director of Learn, Teach Lead RE, provided members with a progress report.

Members were advised that –

- (a) the project was a learning partnership project for Religious Education (RE) with a focus on creating a community of enquiry and professional development

across the south west peninsula;

- (b) the original intention was to support and enhance RE in the south west, boosting provision from Local Authorities, SACREs, teacher training providers, Diocesan Boards of Education and schools;
- (c) the 'unmet needs' of RE teachers were identified and prioritised in the bid for funds;
- (d) the project was launched in October 2012, through funding in excess of £100,00, for a three year period, from the St Luke's College Foundation;
- (e) the funding ensured that Continual Professional Development (CPD) was enjoyed by an increased number of teachers, and was available free of charge for state funded primary and secondary schools;
- (f) 2015 was the third full year of the programme;
- (g) there were 14 Project Leaders of RE (PLREs), leading eight hubs;
- (h) there was scope (if funding allowed) for the formation of other PLREs in north east Cornwall and mid/east Devon;
- (i) there was a current recruitment drive for more PLREs in Torbay (primary) and South Devon (secondary);
- (j) termly hub meetings (affiliated to NATRE) were generating attendance levels of between 15 and 40;
- (k) the 2014 Conference (held at St Mellion Resort) was attended by over 100 delegates;
- (l) PLRE training in January had focused on interfaith dialogue and 'Promoting religious understanding through RE';
- (m) information regarding termly hub meetings and venues was posted on the website and sent to schools through partnership networks and by PLREs. Meetings were usually held in twilight sessions with a change of venue;
- (n) some hubs used a newsletter compiled by the PLREs to keep people in touch between meetings;
- (o) PLREs received regular updates from the Project Director;
- (p) reports of meetings were added to the website;
- (q) agendas this term would share training from the conference and the first training day, as well as addressing local needs;
- (r) PLREs had benefitted from their training and increased confidence in their

subject leadership in addition to sharing their own expertise locally, regionally and nationally;

- (s) Gill Tewkesbury (North Devon Primary Hub Leader) was now an SLE and had won a Hockerill prize (in recognition of innovative teaching in RE), and a Farmington Fellowship (for teachers of Religious Education in UK secondary schools, primary school RE Co-ordinators or other primary school teachers involved in teaching RE, and teachers of children with Special Educational Needs who are involved with RE. Headteachers who wish to undertake research into either Religious Education or Values Education are also eligible to apply. Applicants should have had at least two years in their present post);
- (t) Katie Freeman (Plymouth Primary Hub Leader) was now an SLE (Specialist Leader in Education) and had recently had an article published in 'RE Today';
- (u) other SLEs were Giles Freathy (West Cornwall hub) and Corrine Price (South Devon/Torbay hub);
- (v) funding was available from various sources –
  - The St Luke's College Foundation;
  - SACREs, Local Authorities and teaching schools;
  - Culham St Gabriel;
  - The Jerusalem Trust;
- (w) the success of LTLRE was underpinned by its commitment to teacher development, the effective development and leadership of PLREs and its fundamental commitment to educational research, encouraging innovation to improve classroom practice;
- (x) there were certain 'non-negotiable' principles which underpinned the project's pedagogical model –
  - collaboration between recognised CPD partners, universities and Local Authorities through research and professional development to address identified unmet CPD needs;
  - the creation of a community of learning giving teachers and Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs) the ability to improve their practice;
- (y) the Steering Group membership consisted of –
  - 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: tbc
  - Plymouth LA/SACRE: Jonathan Marshall MBE
  - University of Exeter: Dr Karen Walshe



- University of St Mark and St John: Dr Karen Stockham
  - Teacher representative (St Luke's Foundation): Giles Freathy (Specialist Leader in Education)
  - St Luke's College Foundation (Trustees): Dick Powell
  - Project Director: Linda Rudge
  - PLRE representation is by standing invitation
  - *Internal evaluator to the project: Dr Barbara Wintersgill, former HMI*
  - *External evaluator: Dr John Gay, Oxford University;*
- (z) there were plans in place to extend membership of the Steering Group to include Chairs of SACREs (or a nominated member from Group A, C or D) and senior representatives from Teaching Schools;
- (aa) the next two meetings of the Steering Group were planned for 3 March (Saltash) and 4 June (Torbay or Exeter);
- (bb) St Luke's Trustees had already agreed to fund a fourth annual conference in October 2015. The venue and date were yet to be confirmed, but provisional dates were 15 and 16 October at Dartington Hall, near Totnes. Further details would be available on the website and sent through school mailings. Enrolment would begin after Easter, and was usually oversubscribed. The theme this year would be linked to spiritual development and creativity across the curriculum.

The Chair thanked Linda Rudge for her presentation.

### 31. **FEEDBACK/ACTION FROM AWARENESS/TRAINING SESSION**

Jonathan Marshall, RE Advisor, discussed the morning's awareness/training session with the members. The following issues from the session were highlighted -

- (a) SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural) teaching had advanced since the development of the National Curriculum in 1988;
- (b) there had been an increase in the number of children being withdrawn from Religious Education (RE) lessons, and the British National Party (BNP) were encouraging this through their website;
- (c) there were issues in schools that were beyond the remit of SACRE;
- (d) school governors needed to be made aware of issues surrounding RE in schools;
- (e) it would be beneficial to have a contact list for different religions to check information if necessary;
- (f) faith speakers visiting schools was the way ahead, although some parents could be obstructive;
- (g) a large number of non-specialist RE teachers were not interested in teaching RE;

- (h) there was a lack of support and training for RE; funding needed to be available for training;
- (i) there was no longer a full time RE Advisor post in Plymouth and the surrounding Local Authorities;
- (j) a strongly worded reply needed to be sent to Lord Nash's letter.

32. **PARENTAL RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM RE**

Jonathan Marshall, RE Advisor, discussed the briefing paper and accompanying letter on the parental right of withdrawal of students/children from Religious Education (RE) and its wider implications.

Members were advised that –

- (a) there had been an increase in the number of children withdrawn from RE lessons in school;
- (b) the briefing paper had been sent to all Plymouth schools;
- (c) it was known that the British National Party (BNP) was encouraging the withdrawal of children from RE lessons, especially where Islam was taught;
- (d) parents wishing to withdraw their child(ren) from RE lessons did not have to give a reason, although they had always been encouraged to do so;
- (e) there was no requirement for schools to keep statistics of the number of children who are withdrawn from RE lessons;

Following a discussion, members raised the following points –

- (f) bullet point three of the letter identified one particular religion (Islam), and suggested that some religions could be extremist;
- (g) the letter suggested that particular faiths wished to withdraw their child(ren) from RE lessons;
- (h) it was important that parents who wished to withdraw their child(ren) from RE lessons were invited in to school to discuss their reasons for doing so;
- (i) some parents would have difficulty in understanding the letter;
- (j) the letter was considered to be passive aggressive and overly formal;
- (k) advice needed to be given to headteachers to enable them to produce their own letter regarding this issue.

33. **LETTER FROM LORD NASH, PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCHOOLS**

Jonathan Marshall, RE Advisor, discussed the letter received from Lord Nash, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools.

Members were advised that –

- (a) a decision regarding a reply to this letter needed to be made today;
- (b) the advice received from NASACRE was to thank Lord Nash for his letter;
- (c) the responsibility for RE needed to sit with Local Authorities;
- (d) it was important that what had been discussed in the awareness/training session was reflected in the reply to Lord Nash;

Following a discussion, members raised the following points –

- (e) further information regarding the bursary scheme for the recruitment of high-quality RE teachers was needed; the information did not specify that any religious education was required;
- (f) members expressed concern regarding the holder of a first class degree being eligible for a bursary, as trainees with a first class degree would not necessarily make a high quality teacher;
- (g) a number of SACREs were asking their Local Authority to reply to Lord Nash on their behalf; however it was decided that the reply needed to come from Plymouth SACRE, not Plymouth City Council.

Agreed that SACRE draft a response to Lord Nash's letter.

*(Jatindra Saha left part way through this agenda item)*

34. **UPDATE/FEEDBACK ON LOCAL AND NATIONAL RE ISSUES**  
**(i) Holocaust Memorial Day 2015**

Jonathan Marshall, RE Advisor, updated members on the recent Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD).

Members were advised that –

- (a) the Plymouth event had received a great deal of press and television coverage;
- (b) Solly Irving, a Jewish Holocaust survivor, once again visited the city, giving talks at local schools and the University;
- (c) Plymouth had received one of the special commemorative candles for

the event;

- (d) a Civic event had been held in the Orangery at Mount Edgcumbe House and Country Park;
- (e) it was suggested that two events be held next year, on different days;

Following a discussion, members raised the following points –

- (f) the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) sent details of books and DVDs to libraries that could be advertised for HMD;
- (g) World Book Day could be linked in with HMD; to keep the event fresh in peoples' minds;
- (h) the event held at the University was superb, and involved a large number of children; however another event or display was needed in the centre of the city to attract the general public;
- (i) the event could be advertised on the side of the University, or on the 'big screen' on the Plaza in the city centre.

Jonathan Marshall, RE Advisor, thanked members for their comments and agreed to pass them on to Karl Sweeney, Leadership Advisor (Health, Wellbeing and Citizenship).

**(ii) NATRE Conference**

Katie Freeman advised members that the NATRE Conference had taken place on 31 January, and had been well attended by 170 teachers from around the country. Various workshops had been held, including a session on 'assessment without levels'.

**(iii) Plymouth SACRE website**

Jonathan Marshall, RE Advisor, advised members that a 'Religious education' section was now available on the Plymouth School Room page of the Plymouth City Council website, and contained information for teachers, SACRE members and all those interested in and committed to, providing excellent religious education in schools and across the community.

**(iv) Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity**

Jonathan Marshall, RE Advisor, advised members that a new administrator for the Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity (PCFCD) had been appointed. Jonathan took this opportunity to promote the importance of the work of the Centre, and the services they provided for schools. Jonathan advised members that he hoped that the meeting planned for 25 March would encourage more people to volunteer as faith speakers.

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

The date of the next meeting would be confirmed following confirmation of the programme of Council meetings at the Full Council Meeting on 23 March 2015.

36. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.

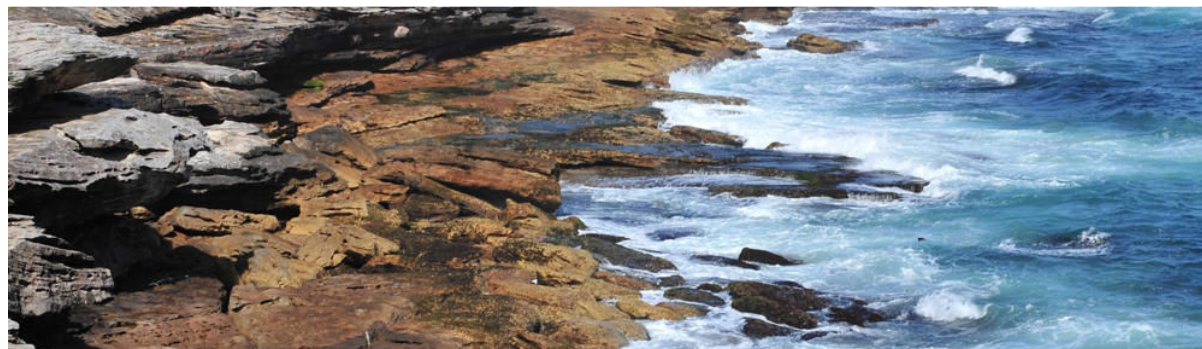
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## LEARN/TEACH/LEAD: Enhancing RE in the South-West

### Briefing paper 15 –for SACREs and Steering Group members

*From – Linda Rudge, Project Director, May 2015*

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This paper is the regular update for SACREs, PLREs, and for members of the steering group. Colleagues can find out more on the website [www.ltlre.org](http://www.ltlre.org). The project is also active on Twitter – have a look at @ltlre for the most recent conversations and conference photos. Briefing papers like this one are intended to record the project’s history as well as to update members and participants. As there are always new people involved, the first two sections explain the background to the project and how it works.

### 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, secondary and special schools. This is the third full year of its programme and the final year in terms of the original grant from St Luke’s. An article outlining the impact of project and recording its development will appear in Professional REflection, the journal of the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) either in the autumn edition of RE Today or in the Spring 2016 edition.

### 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.

As a result of the positive evaluations received since the beginning of its work, the project has now received substantial funding from the Jerusalem (Sainsbury's) Trust to extend its work into three other south western areas centred round the Dioceses of Bristol, Bath and Wells and Salisbury. LTLRE has been selected by Culham St Gabriel's Trustees to receive shared funding in a project on assessment and progression in RE 'beyond levels.'

The internal evaluation for 2015 from Barbara Wintersgill contained the following **conclusions** for report to SACREs and other partners represented in the steering group. The full report will be discussed on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the next steering group meeting after which copies of the evaluation can be obtained from the project Director on [lrudge@waitrose.com](mailto:lrudge@waitrose.com):

- *'One of the most impressive outcomes of the 2015 evaluation has been the substantial improvement in the quantity and quality of responses of teachers involved in LTLRE. Last year's responses indicated a successful project, which was already gaining a national reputation. The developments over this year have exceeded my expectations, especially compared with other projects past and present.'*
- *'The important question is "what next". Assessment is a key area for development and even PLREs will need considerable support with this'.*
- *'If the exceptional work of this project is to continue, then the PLREs are right in saying that the hubs and the annual conference which informs the work of the hubs over the year have to continue if the supply of confident, knowledgeable RE teachers is to be maintained....'.*
- *'Given the high profile of this project nationally, it might be worth considering the development of a training programme that would be offered nationally and would put the project on a sound commercial footing.'*

During the evaluation, PLREs were asked to identify key elements of the project whose retention was 'non-negotiable' for the continuing success of the project. Dr Wintersgill reported that 'they were unanimous that the three key elements to be retained were the annual conference, training and joint planning time for PLREs and regular hub meetings with the creation of new hubs. There was also a suggestion that the project should be supported by a fully interactive website with a resources sharing area'. A bid for further funding to St Luke's will be considered by Trustees in June 2015, and Teaching Schools are now involved at a strategic level in discussions about how they can help with these goals.



### **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, and the success of the project in achieving these aims has again been noted in this year's evaluation. 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.

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/> and the project has PLRE representatives on the NATRE executive committee.

PLREs have benefitted from their training and increased confidence in their subject leadership as well as sharing their own expertise locally, regionally and nationally. Amongst other PLRE successes this year, congratulations have been passed on by the project team to Corrine Price (South Devon and Torbay, Wolborough CE Primary School) for her publication in *RE Today* and to Ian Hartley for his leadership in an inspection by the *Challenge Partners Initiative*. This means that the RS department at Ridgeway Secondary School has now been officially recognised as an 'area of excellence' and has been entered into the *Challenge Partners* handbook online as a contact for other departments wanting advice / training etc. Nicola Bonell has also been promoted to Assistant Headteacher at St Mary's CE Primary School, Penzance and Giles Freathy is beginning a secondment with the Learning Institute in September 2015.

### **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. Most hubs now have electronic address books for their members, but we still rely on SACREs, LAs, university partners and Diocesan Boards to help us notify schools of meetings and conferences.

## **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 [lrudge@waitrose.com](mailto:lrudge@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 [lrudge@waitrose.com](mailto:lrudge@waitrose.com) or Tatiana Wilson on [tatiana.wilson@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:tatiana.wilson@exeter.anglican.org) for further details.

For the first time, in order to offset administrative costs and to establish a future training fund, we are asking for a registration fee from schools wishing to attend the annual conference – details below.

### **An ongoing 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. Ways of supporting the project are (for example) through the provision of adviser/teacher time for participation in training days, conferences and steering group meetings, or through the provision of venues or speaker costs.

**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. Thank you.**

**We wish you a peaceful and fulfilling summer term, and hope to see you at the conference on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015 (details attached below).**

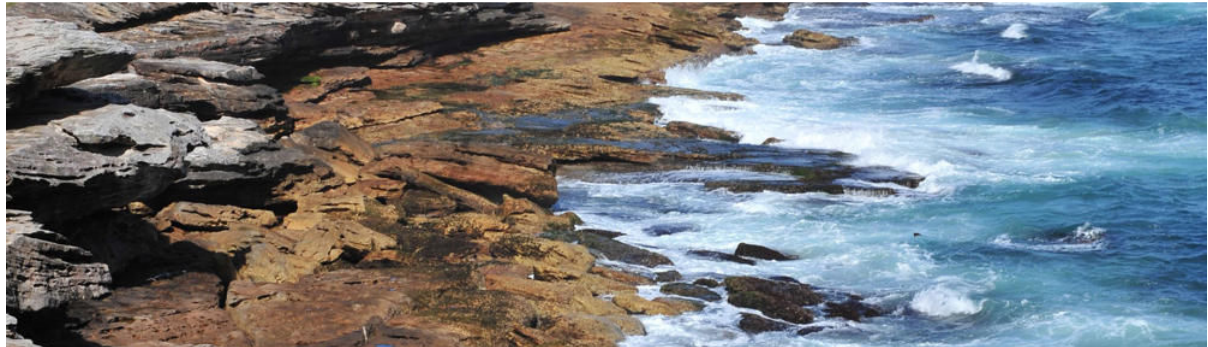
*Those that know, do. Those that understand, teach. (Aristotle)*

**PLRE/hub contact details as of May 2015:**

|                   |  |   |                                      |
|-------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Nicola Bonell     | <a href="mailto:nbonell@st-marys-ce-pz.cornwall.sch.uk">nbonell@st-marys-ce-pz.cornwall.sch.uk</a>   | St Mary's (CE) Primary, Penzance  | West Cornwall - PY                   |
| Michael Heron     | <a href="mailto:MHeron@helston.cornwall.sch.uk">MHeron@helston.cornwall.sch.uk</a>   | Helston Community College   | West Cornwall - SY                   |
| Rachel Willcocks  | <a href="mailto:Rachel.Hughes@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">Rachel.Hughes@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>   | Exmouth Community College   | Exeter and East Devon - SY           |
| Sarah Hopkins     | <a href="mailto:shopkins@drakes.devon.sch.uk">shopkins@drakes.devon.sch.uk</a>   | Drake's (CE) Primary School East Budleigh                                 | Exeter and East Devon - PY           |
| Joseph Matthews   | <a href="mailto:jmatthews@ilfracombecollege.devon.sch.uk">jmatthews@ilfracombecollege.devon.sch.uk</a>   | Ilfracombe Community College  | North Devon - SY                     |
| Gill Tewkesbury   | <a href="mailto:gtewkesbury@piltonbluecoat.devon.sch.uk">gtewkesbury@piltonbluecoat.devon.sch.uk</a>   | Pilton Bluecoat School, Barnstaple  | North Devon - PY                     |
| Corrine Price     | <a href="mailto:corrineprice@wolborough-primary.devon.sch.uk">corrineprice@wolborough-primary.devon.sch.uk</a>   | Wolborough (CE) Primary, Newton Abbot                                     | Torbay - PY and South/mid Devon - PY |
| Charlotte Caluori | <a href="mailto:Charlotte.Caluori@stcm.torbay.sch.uk">Charlotte.Caluori@stcm.torbay.sch.uk</a>   | St Cuthbert Mayne (RC/CE) Secondary, Torquay                              | Torbay - SY                          |
| Ian Hartley       | <a href="mailto:HartleyI@ridgeway.plymouth.sch.uk">HartleyI@ridgeway.plymouth.sch.uk</a>   | The Ridgeway School, Plymouth   | Plymouth (SY) and website lead       |
| Katie Freeman     | <a href="mailto:hyde.park.infants.school@plymouth.gov.uk">hyde.park.infants.school@plymouth.gov.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:katiefreeman@blueyonder.co.uk">katiefreeman@blueyonder.co.uk</a> | Hyde Park Infants School, Plymouth  | Plymouth - PY                        |
| Giles Freathy     | <a href="mailto:gilesfreathy@hotmail.com">gilesfreathy@hotmail.com</a> (school e-mail address to follow)   | Sir Robert Gefferys C of E VA Primary School, Landrake, Saltash, Cornwall | East Cornwall – PY                   |
| Jezz Pomfret      | <a href="mailto:pomfret@saltashcloud.net">pomfret@saltashcloud.net</a>   | saltash.net community school, Cornwall                                    | East Cornwall - SY                   |
| Felicity Henchley | <a href="mailto:fhenchley@st-mabyn.org">fhenchley@st-mabyn.org</a>   | St Mabyn Primary School, Cornwall   | Mid/North Cornwall – PY              |
| Emily James       | <a href="mailto:ecj@tretherras.net">ecj@tretherras.net</a>   | Newquay Tretherras School, Cornwall                                       | Mid/North Cornwall - SY              |



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



Fourth annual conference

Supported by the St Luke's College Education Foundation

4 pm 15th October to 4pm 16th October 2014

at

Dartington Hall, Totnes [www.dartington.org](http://www.dartington.org)

### CREATIVE TEACHING, CREATIVE LEARNING: THE SPIRIT OF RE

#### Keynote addresses:

**Mary Myatt**, Project Manager for RE Quality Mark [www.reqm.org](http://www.reqm.org)

**Derek Holloway**, Salisbury Diocesan RE Adviser and SIAMS Manager

**Verity Holloway**, RE, Collective Worship and Spirituality Adviser, Salisbury Diocese

**Plus WORKSHOPS** focused on subject leadership and subject knowledge across religions and worldviews represented in the region's agreed syllabi

**Deadline for residential bookings: 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

**Deadline for non-residential bookings: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Please apply by e-mail to [educationevents@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:educationevents@exeter.anglican.org)

for your priority booking form

**Registration fee: £36 (inclusive of VAT) per individual delegate (non-refundable)**

*Apart from the registration fee, this event is FREE to all teachers of RE (including initial teacher education trainees, newly qualified teachers and teaching assistants) in Devon and Cornwall community and aided schools, and in academies. Delegates who have attended previous conferences are encouraged to apply, but there will be a waiting list to enable other teachers to access this CPD. If you can 'bring a friend' by enrolling another teacher you will have a priority place on the list. Places will also be allocated across the project's hubs. The conference and the project <http://www.tlre.org/> are funded by the St Luke's College Foundation <http://www.st-lukes-foundation.org.uk/>*



Lord Nash  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for  
Schools  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
Westminster  
LONDON SW1P 3BT  
-

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Please ask for: Lynn Young

Date 1 April 2015

My Ref

Your Ref

Dear Lord Nash

On behalf of Plymouth SACRE, we wish to thank you for your letter dated 7 January 2015. We considered it carefully, and in some depth, at our meeting on the 9 March. It was good to read that you and the Department for Education know and value the work and role of SACREs in ensuring that RE is taught well and to high standards of academic rigour. It was also reassuring to read of the importance placed on RE and Collective Worship as key vehicles for enabling and supporting children and young people's development through the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural dimensions also ensuring that the National Curriculum is truly balanced and broadly based.

Your references to recent events in some schools in Birmingham and elsewhere only underline the vital importance of well taught RE as a measure and touchstone to ensure that this crucial balance is maintained and community cohesion promoted and practised.

Plymouth SACRE is an active and engaged group. Most of its Members have served for a number of years and bring a wide variety of professional and educational expertise and experience. Their perspective is of great value and I wish to share with you our concerns which, we assert, have blocked and impeded the development of the important work you outline and which we support and promote.

Despite all that you say, and to which we are wholly committed, within a curriculum that is solely focused on attainment through English, Maths and Science the value of RE, (along with other non-core subjects) is regarded as less important and therefore given scant regard. As long as Ofsted fail to follow up on schools who blatantly disregard RE and its statutory nature, but more especially its vital educational value, our efforts will be continually undermined.

contd . . .

Successive Governments have also, through, let us say, the law of unintended consequences, severely weakened the status and value of RE, in the eyes of schools, teachers and trainees, parents and pupils. It is as though SACRE and RE continue to succeed, where it undoubtedly does, in spite of what has been done politically rather than through the support of successive Governments and Ministers. With an election looming, in whose hands is RE safe?

Plymouth SACRE feels strongly, that if you can ensure that your Department directs and requires Ofsted to inspect RE for all the statutory, academic, SMSC and Community Cohesion reasons above, it will be THE major factor in ensuring the realisation of all that you and we seek.

In short, at the end of your penultimate paragraph, you raise the issue of whether; "...all SACREs are fulfilling their statutory duties." Well...the message from Plymouth SACRE is; are Ofsted fulfilling theirs!?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Aspinall', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Mary Aspinall  
Vice Chair Plymouth SACRE