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Published 08 March 2016

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Thursday 17 March 2016
9.30 am
Council House, Armada Way, Plymouth

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

For further information on attending Council meetings and how to engage in the democratic process please follow this link - <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/accesstomeetings>

Tracey Lee
Chief Executive

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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 2 November 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 Issues

The RE Adviser will provide an update on membership issues.

6. Sacre Annual Report (Pages 7 - 20)

The RE Adviser will present the SACRE Annual Report 2014-15 for approval.

7. Development Plan and Budget for 2016-18

The RE Adviser will present the Development Plan and budget for 2016-18.

8. National and Local RE News and Updates:

8.1. RE Hub, LTLRE project and national developments

Katie Freeman will provide members with updates on the RE Hub, the LTLRE project and national developments.

8.2. Ofsted reports

The Chair will provide an update on recent Ofsted reports.

8.3. Supporting teachers

The RE Adviser will provide an update on support that is available for teachers of RE.

9. Withdrawal from RE and Promoting British Values - A Possible Conflict?

The RE Adviser will lead a discussion on 'Withdrawal from RE and promoting British values – a possible conflict?'

10. Holocaust Memorial Day - Feedback and Future Plans

The RE Adviser will lead a discussion on the recent Holocaust Memorial Day and plans for future events.

11. Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity (PCFCD)

Councillor Dr Salter will provide members with an update on the new subscription service for the PCFCD and Centre news.

12. South West Sacre Conference

The Chair and RE Adviser will provide feedback to members following their attendance at the South West SACRE Conference.

13. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be confirmed in due course.

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Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Monday 2 November 2015

PRESENT:

MarkAndrew Dearden, in the Chair.

Councillor Mrs Aspinall, Vice Chair.

Councillors Morris and Dr Salter.

Bakari Arabi, Alison Bradley, Catherine Bowness, Shelley Catchpole, Katie Freeman, Liz Hill and Gwen Hughes.

Co-opted Representatives: Dr Clare Hamon, Ben Kerr and Dr Barbara Wintersgill.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Drean and Jarvis.

Penny Burnside, Gordon Cryer, Martin Edmonds, Pete Grainger, Ian Kavanagh, Anna Kelly, Helena Mitchell, Caroline McVicar and Jatindra Saha.

Also in attendance: Jonathan Marshall (RE Adviser) and Lynn Young (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 2.04 pm and finished at 4.24 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.

14. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

15. **MINUTES**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2015 are confirmed as a correct record.

16. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

17. **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Jonathan Marshall, RE Adviser, provided an update on the current membership.

(a) Ian Kavanagh was the new Buddhist representative (Group A), but was unable to attend today;

(b) Clare Hamon (Quaker co-opted representative), would be resigning from

SACRE in the near future;

- (c) following Clare's resignation, a new co-opted representative on the Ambitious Plymouth panel would be required.

Under this agenda item, Jonathan welcomed Dr Barbara Wintersgill, who had been unable to attend a meeting recently.

18. **UPDATES ON SACRE ISSUES**

(i) Councillor Membership Update

Jonathan Marshall, RE Adviser, advised members that he had contacted the Democratic Support Team Leader regarding the membership of Group D (The Local Authority), however he had not received a reply, and would wait until the AGM in May 2016 and re-visit the matter at that time.

(ii) Cornwall SACRE

The Chair advised members that there had been a number of changes to the Cornwall SACRE. There was no longer an RE Adviser in Cornwall. There had been a meeting in the summer to discuss the new direction of SACRE, and another meeting was due to take place next week.

(iii) Prevent Duty

Jonathan Marshall, RE Adviser, advised members that schools were now responsible for this issue, under the Prevent duty, which was placed on all schools from 1 July 2015; they had a very important contribution to make and relevant training was available.

19. **PLYMOUTH RE HUB/LearnTeachLead (LTLRE) RE CONFERENCE**

Katie Freeman, Primary Hub Leader, provided members with an update on recent activity within the Plymouth Hub. Members were advised that –

- (a) a meeting had been held at Ridgeway School last term, and another meeting would be held this week at Hyde Park School to launch the 'assessment without levels' initiative;
- (b) the LearnTeachLead Conference in October had been well attended, and Dr Barbara Wintersgill had spoken on 'assessment without levels'
- (c) a number of Project Leads for RE had led workshops on the second day of the conference;
- (d) Katie Freeman had attended the Liberal Democratic conference in September with NATRE and the RE Council, where a number of very interesting discussions had taken place.

Jonathan Marshall thanked Katie Freeman for her hard work, and suggested that SACRE would welcome a regular update at future meetings.

20. **OFSTED REPORTS - PLYMOUTH SCHOOLS**

The Chair circulated a report which detailed recent Ofsted inspections of Plymouth schools. Members were advised that the report covered those schools whose inspection report had been published prior to 30 June 2015.

Members made the following observations regarding the report –

- (a) very few schools had been graded as ‘Outstanding’;
- (b) there was very little focus on the teaching of RE in the reports, in particular for Key Stage 4 and 5;
- (c) it was apparent that the Ofsted inspectors, with reference to RE, were not asking the right questions;
- (d) the individual school reports were a précis, rather than a full report.

21. **FEEDBACK FROM 2014 SACRE AWARD TO ORESTON COMMUNITY ACADEMY**

Jonathan Marshall, RE Adviser, advised members that Oreston Community Academy had won this award, however a representative from the school was unable to attend the meeting to give feedback.

22. **2015 PROVISIONAL EXAM RESULTS/ANNUAL REPORT**

Jonathan Marshall, RE Adviser, advised members that he had only recently received the provisional 2015 exam results. In addition he was planning to start writing the SACRE Annual Report shortly.

Members were advised that –

- (a) there were 16 secondary schools in Plymouth, and 12 had entered pupils for GCSE RE;
- (b) the exam results were the highest for several years, with 72% of pupils attaining an A*-C grade;
- (c) the two Roman Catholic schools in Plymouth entered every pupil for GCSE RE, however it was highlighted that their exam naturally had a clear Catholic focus;
- (d) the results were not yet in the public domain as a number of appeals were still ongoing;
- (e) 11 secondary schools had entered pupils for A Level RE with 100% of pupils attaining an A*-E grade;
- (f) it was considered worthwhile to issue a press release regarding the successful exam results and the good work going on in RE in many Plymouth schools.

23. **FEEDBACK/PLANS FROM THE MORNING SESSION - TRAINING/AWARENESS ABOUT ISLAM**

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

- (a) it was necessary to re-visit the priorities of the SACRE development plan;
- (b) RE training for schools needed to be individually tailored for both primary and secondary schools;
- (c) teachers needed to be encouraged to attend training sessions;
- (d) secondary school RE specialists were willing to work with primary school teachers to share their knowledge;
- (e) a number of teachers faced opposition from parents who did not want their child to visit the mosque; however this needed to be challenged as it was a good learning opportunity for children;
- (f) it was important to allow parents the right to withdraw their child from RE lessons if they wished but teachers needed to be skilled in encouraging discussion to clarify what the issues actually were;
- (g) schools needed to encourage children to enter exams for RE.

24. **PLYMOUTH SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN PRIORITIES**

Jonathan Marshall, RE Adviser, provided members with an update. Members were advised that –

- (a) he hoped to remain in his post in the new financial year, however this was dependent on sufficient funding being available;
- (b) £500 was set aside in the SACRE budget as a contingency fund;
- (c) if an under-spend was identified, the money would have to be spent before the end of the financial year or the money would be clawed back; however it was important that every spend was justified and used to support and improve RE in classrooms;
- (d) it was possible that the surplus money could be spent on hosting a SACRE evening talk.

(Bakari Arabi left the meeting part way through this agenda item)

25. **HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY PLANS 2016**

Jonathan Marshall, RE Adviser, provided members with an update on the plans for Holocaust Memorial Day 2016. Members were advised that –

- (a) plans were in place for the event which would be held on Wednesday 27 January 2016, possibly at the Roland Lewinsky building at Plymouth University;
- (b) the civic event would take place at Mount Edgumbe on Sunday 24 January 2016 at the Orangery;
- (c) Councillor Paul Jarvis would be the Master of Ceremonies for the civic event, and speakers from the Church of England and the Ba’hai faith would also be present;
- (d) the theme for the event was ‘Don’t Stand By’;
- (e) information packs were available from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (e-mail enquiries@hmd.org.uk);
- (f) Solly Irving, a Jewish Holocaust survivor, would be visiting the city again in January 2016 if his health allowed, and would be visiting local schools to share his experiences.

Following a discussion, members agreed that future events should be held in a more central and public location, and needed to be more widely advertised.

26. **PLYMOUTH CENTRE FOR FAITHS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY (PCFCD) NEWS**

Jonathan Marshall, RE Adviser, provided members with an update. Members were advised that –

- (a) Councillor Dr Salter was now a trustee of the Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity (PCFCD);
- (b) there had recently been a number of staff changes at PCFCD;
- (c) approximately 68 schools had now subscribed to the PCFCD (the highest ever number), and there had been an increase in the requests for faith speakers;
- (d) more changes at the PCFCD would be taking place over the next couple of months;
- (e) different levels of subscription for the centre were being actively encouraged to ensure stability for the centre’s finances.

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

The next SACRE meeting would be held on Thursday 17 March 2016 at 09.30 am, at a venue yet to be decided.

28. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.

SACRE REPORT



STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Annual Report
2014 - 2015

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FOREWORD

This has been an exciting year for Religious Education in Plymouth and for all members of Plymouth SACRE. This report contains much to celebrate and even more to contemplate and consider as we bridge the school academic years.

Following the launch of the Plymouth Agreed Syllabus: “Engaging with Religion and Worldviews” in July 2014, the academic year 2014-2015 has been primarily about the consolidation and support of Religious Education in school. The syllabus clearly indicates that “We seek to create and develop a Religious Education syllabus that every school will want to provide and every pupil will want to study” and schools across the city have been doing just that.

Young people and teachers are to be congratulated on their engagement, enthusiasm and success in Religious Education, a year that has seen the best results at GCSE A*-C for over ten years, an increasing numbers of teachers engaging in the Learn Teach Lead Religious Education (LTLRE) Project and attending events and conferences, and a desire for young people and teachers to work together in an increasing number of projects and events, including the welcome return of Mr Solly Irving to the Holocaust Memorial Day events, 2015.

Whilst nationally, regionally and locally the debate surrounding Religious Education continues to provide column inches, here in Plymouth, SACRE looks to the reports of our local schools by OFSTED and finds much good happening. Reports comment on both the teaching and learning taking place in Religious Education, and to wider implications of encouraging young people to uphold their beliefs and their individual belief systems within the school communities, making them safe and welcoming places to live, learn and grow. We could say that these are the true British Values at work in the heart of our school communities in Plymouth.

I would 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, my sincere thanks to Jonathan Marshall, our hard working Adviser to SACRE for his guidance and support in helping the four groups of SACRE to work for the good of all young people, and to Lynn Young, our Democratic Support Officer, who ensures that the meetings are orderly and recorded correctly for all to see and celebrate Religious Education in the City of Plymouth.

MarkAndrew Dearden

Chair of Plymouth SACRE
January 2016

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

I.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 previous 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.

Over the first year of the new syllabus’s introduction, feedback has been very positive. Our flexible approach has allowed and indeed encouraged teachers to take account of further national influences and developments in Religious Education.

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 and now, the promotion of British Values are together viewed as key judgements contributing to the overall effectiveness of the school.

2.1.2 SACRE continues to encourage all schools to use the excellent resources now available, nationally, through excellent websites such as REonline; The Religious Education Council and NATRE. Links to these and other sites can be found on our recently established, local SACRE/RE website on Plymouth Council’s School Room page.

RE curriculum development moves on and over the past year we have embraced the changes and challenges of “Assessment without levels”

2.2 Examination Results in Religious Studies (Provisional)

2.2.1 This year 12 Plymouth Secondary Schools entered a total of 755 candidates for the full GCSE examination in Religious Studies. This represents 28% of the year groups in these schools. 72% of students achieved grades A*-C, this represents the best results for over ten years, and 98% achieved A*-G grades.

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

2.2.3 11 Secondary Schools entered a total of 110 students for the Advanced Level Religious Studies examinations. 100% achieved grades A*-E.

2.2.4 7 Secondary schools entered a total of 25 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 outstanding 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, is in its 15th year. With a number of staff changes this will undoubtedly be a time of transition.

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 a record 65 schools subscribed to the Centre and over two-hundred visits were made by Faith Speakers, including to non-subscribing schools. Most popular visits to places of worship were to the synagogue and Islamic Centre. Most popular visits to schools were from Jewish, Hindu and Muslim speakers. The feedback from these visits has been extremely

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

Solly Irving, a Jewish Holocaust survivor from London, spent four days with us in January. This was his 15th annual visit in the preparation for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD). He visited ten Secondary Schools/Colleges, where students listened, with fixed attention, to Solly's personal testimony, which he entitles; "Destined to Survive".

Working together, Plymouth's Advisory team, SACRE and the Centre staff also organised a very successful HMD schools event at the Roland Levinsky Building on the University campus. Over one hundred and fifty young people attended during the day and a number of schools actively took part including The Military Kids Choir and the Young City Laureate.

Plymouth HMD events received a great deal of local press and television coverage this year and Plymouth was also nominated to receive one of the special commemorative candles distributed nationally.

4.2 Courses, Conferences and Meetings

Two SACRE members attended the South West SACRE Conference at Dillington in March which always proves supportive and encouraging.

The RE Adviser continues to support the LearnTeachLead RE project as a Steering Group member. The third annual conference for teachers was held in Cornwall in October and was very successful. There is a real appreciation of the support and inspiration this project offers to our RE community. With national RE speakers, the theme was "The Learning Journey in RE; leading the way through religious understanding".

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 now meets each term, (six times a year) and numbers attending can reach forty!

Katie Freeman attended the NATRE conference in London in January. It was extremely well attended by teachers from around the country.

A new conference was held in April, funded by the Plymouth Teaching School Alliance. The main speaker was our old friend, Lat Blaylock, Editor and Adviser from RE Today. Lat's enthusiasm and creativity ensured the day was a great success and source of inspiration. Katie Freeman's contribution was vital and appreciated in making this all possible.

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.

5.2 Complaints

No complaints about collective worship have been received by SACRE.

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 provide mutual 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.

In May, Cllr. Dr. David Salter attended the AGM and provided SACRE members with detailed feedback at their summer meeting. The keynote speaker was the Rt. Hon. Charles Clarke. Cllr. Salter directed members to the NASACRE website for a full report on the conference.

7. SACRE ARRANGEMENTS AND PRIORITIES

SACRE meets once per term and is supported by the following staff from Plymouth City Council: The Independent 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.

7.1 Development Plan for 2014 - 2016

Priorities during this period have taken account of the limited RE Adviser time (20 days per year) and the need to encourage and support teachers following the introduction of our new syllabus, “Engaging with Religion and Worldviews”. Following lengthy discussion the Development Plan for this period will focus on three key areas:

- Support and training for teachers to develop creative and innovative schemes of work to support the new syllabus and the new emphasis of heritage, diversity and spirituality
- Curriculum projects to promote good quality RE resources especially in response to national and local developments, including SACRE grants

- Support for on-going events (e.g. Solly Irving and HMD), talks and promotion of RE and SACRE's work. Support for a Muslim youth forum

APPENDICES

A Religious Studies Examination Statistics 2001-2015

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
2015	12	755	28.0	277	478	72.0	98.0
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)
2015	11	110	8	30	70	100
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
2015	9	25	2	4	21	96
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 2014 - 2015

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

Eight places

Shelley Catchpole	Baptist Church
Ian Kavanagh	Buddhist Community
Dr Jatindra Saha	Hindu Community
Bakari Arabi	Muslim Community
Anna Kelly	Jewish community
Ms Helena Mitchell	Methodist Church
Vacant	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 (three vacancies)

Cathy Slow	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter
Mrs Catherine Bowness	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter
Ms Penny Burnside	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter
Ms Katie Freeman	Hyde Park Infants School
Mrs Alison Sturgeon	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter
Mr MarkAndrew Dearden	University of St. Mark & St. John

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)
<i>Vacant</i>	NATRE
<i>Vacant</i>	VOICE
<i>Vacant</i>	UCU
Ms Elizabeth Hill	PAPH (NAHT)
Mrs Alison Bradley	ATL
Mrs Heather Farrow	Special Schools

Group D: The Local Authority

Six places

Councillor Mary Aspinall	Plymouth City Council
Councillor Paul Jarvis	Plymouth City Council
Councillor Jonny Morris	Plymouth City Council
Councillor Jonathan Drean	Plymouth City Council
Councillor Dr David Salter	Plymouth City Council
<i>Vacancy</i>	Plymouth City Council

Co-opted Representatives

Six places

Miss Caroline McVicker	AST (Secondary)
Dr Clare Hamon	Quaker Community
<i>Vacancy</i>	Greek Orthodox Community
Rev Gordon Cryer	Plymouth Association of Governors
Ben Kerr	Humanist
Barbara Wintersgill	RE Consultant

Officers

Mr Jonathan Marshall	Consultant Religious Education Adviser
Miss Lynn Young	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 2014 – 2015.

The Autumn Term meeting was held on 1st December 2014 at Central Methodist Hall, Plymouth. Sixteen members and two officers were present and the issues discussed included:-

- New members and membership update
- SACRE Annual Report for 2013/14
- Examination results – summer 2014
- Development Plan
- The Learn Teach Lead RE Project
- Plans for Holocaust Memorial Day – “Keep the Memory Alive”
- Local RE news and developments
- South West SACRE conference in March 2015 at Dillington House

The Spring Term meeting was held on 9th March 2015 at the Council House, Plymouth. Fifteen members, two officers and one guest speaker were present and the issues discussed included:-

- Welcome to new members and membership issues
- SACRE Development Plan
- Learn Teach Lead RE Project – Linda Rudge, Project Director
- Feedback and discussion, from morning’s training session
- Parental Right of Withdrawal from RE
- Letter from Lord Nash
- Local and National RE issues
- Feedback on HMD
- NATRE conference
- Plymouth SACRE/RE website launched
- Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity

The Summer Term meeting was held on 29th June 2015 at the Council House, Plymouth. Sixteen members and two officers were present and the issues discussed included:-

- Welcome to new members and membership update
- Review of the SACRE Development Plan and budget
- LearnTeachLead RE project – Plymouth Hub news
- Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity – staff changes
- Feedback from South West SACRE conference
- The All Party Parliamentary Group on RE
- Feedback on NASACRE conference
- Response to Lord Nash’s letter and Ofsted Inspections in Devon
- The Prevent Duty – implications for schools and RE

Clerk to SACRE – Lynn Young – Democratic Support Officer
Consultant RE Adviser to Plymouth SACRE – Jonathan Marshall

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