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

Monday 12 March 2018

1.30 pm

All Saints Church of England Academy, Honicknowle Lane, Plymouth, PL5 3NE

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

For further information on webcasting, 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**

### **PART I**

#### **Agenda**

**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 13 November 2017.

**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 to the forum, Jayesh Bhagat – Buddhist Rep Group A; Malc Halliday – Baptist Group A and Louis Efthymiou – Greek Orthodox Co-opted.

**6. SACRE Annual Report**

**(Pages 7 - 20)**

To agree the SACRE Annual Report.

**7. National and Local News and Developments, including the Commission on RE**

Katie Freeman will present this item and a group of children from St. Matthews Academy will share with SACRE - "What we told the RE Commissioners about RE!"

**8. Matters Arising**

**(Pages 21 - 26)**

The RE Adviser will provide an update on matters arising.

**9. Presentation from Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity on Current Developments**

Centre staff will provide an update.

**10. Promoting RE and Religious Tolerance**

A presentation by Alizeh Abdul Rahman (DHSB) on her work and recent film on ITV:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUW7LAIkHoU&t=0s&list=LL4SxyV00\\_0oiFRVZLg\\_KNWw&index=](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUW7LAIkHoU&t=0s&list=LL4SxyV00_0oiFRVZLg_KNWw&index=)

**11. Feedback from the South West SACRE Conference**

The Chair and Helena Mitchell will provide an update.

**12. Feedback from Holocaust Memorial Day Events**

The Chair and Re Adviser/ Members will provide feedback.

**13. Future SACRE Development, Membership Issues and Adviser Support**

Heather Ogburn, Senior Adviser will provide an update.

**14. Date and venue of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be confirmed following approval of the calendar of Council meetings at the Full Council meeting on 26 March 2018.

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

**Monday 13 November 2017**

### **PRESENT:**

Martin Edmonds, in the Chair.

Helena Mitchell, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Ball and Morris.

Mark Andrew Dearden, Katie Freeman, Gary Futcher, Anna Kelly and Ed Pawson.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Drean, Ben Kerr, Alison Williams and Elizabeth Hill.

Also in attendance: Jonathan Marshall (RE Adviser), Helen Rickman (Democratic Support Officer) and Jamie Sheldon (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 1.30 pm and finished at 3.30 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.*

15. **Declarations of Interest**

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

16. **Minutes**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2017 are an accurate record subject to Councillor Ball's apologies being included.

17. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

### **Order of Business**

With the permission of the Chair, the order of business was changed and was reflected in the minutes below.

18. **Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity**

Claire Lindon provided Members with an update on the Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity.

Members were advised that a new cohort of speakers had received 9 hours of training and had undertaken a faith training practice session in schools. The Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity had also been selected as Co-op's Local Cause; it was hoped that new resources would be bought for the centre.

Agreed that the Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity newsletter would be sent to SACRE Members.

19. **Membership Issues**

Jonathan Marshall (RE Advisor) welcomed Ed Pawson to the meeting who was to replace Penny Burnside in Group B (The Church of England, appointed by the Exeter Diocesan Board of Education). In addition, Members were advised that representatives in Group A (Christian and other religious denominations, not including Church of England) were still required in order to better represent the major world faiths at the meeting.

Under this item Jonathan highlighted that several apologies had been submitted for the meeting despite dates and times being altered to facilitate attendance.

Agreed that Claire Linden would communicate the current vacancies on SACRE when looking for more faith speakers.

20. **Annual Report and Examination Results**

Jonathan Marshall (RE Advisor) advised Members that there was a requirement for the Annual Report and examination results to be published; this was currently in progress however key findings included:

- (a) for the first time in a decade there was a decline nationally in the number of children seeking entrance for GCSE studies in Religious studies;
- (b) in Plymouth the figure had increased as there were 821 pupils entered for the GCSE in RE whereas last year the figure was 659; for A-levels, 93 pupils had entered the examination and 100% had achieved a grade A-C;
- (c) there was considered to be more of an emphasis on academic subjects in the education system as Members were advised that approximately 5 lessons a week needed to be taught for a full GCSE however on the whole RE was only taught once a week.

Agreed that a letter would be sent to all schools directed to the Heads of RE and Headteachers congratulating those achieving in Religious Education, with a short paper to be included, written by Ed Pawson, which outlined different routes to deliver RE in Key Stage 4, to act as a guide.

21. **Commission on Religious Education - Interim Report**

Katie Freeman and Ed Pawson provided Members with an update on the Commission on Religious Education which was established to review the legal, education and policy frameworks for RE in schools. The interim report 'Religious Education for All' detailed four recommendations:

- I. There should be a national entitlement statement for RE which sets out of the aims and purpose of RE and what pupils should experience in the course of the

study of their subject.

2. This entitlement should become normative through non-statutory guidance as early as possible, and should ultimately become statutory, either to supplement or to replace current legislation on agreed syllabuses.
3. The national entitlement should apply to all state funded schools, including academies, free schools and schools of a religious character.
4. Independent schools should consider adopting the entitlement as an undertaking of good practice.

This consultation was open to individuals and groups and could be accessed by clicking the following link:

<http://www.commissiononre.org.uk/religious-education-for-all-commission-interim-report/>

Members raised the following comments and concerns:

- (a) it was considered that the average PGCE only included approximately 3 hours of how to teach RE – this was not enough;
- (b) there was an active hub in Plymouth which was a great resource for teachers however there was concern over the development of teachers that taught RE but didn't attend the hub;
- (c) there was concern that some teachers teaching RE didn't understand the basic elements of some religious beliefs;
- (d) Members raised the importance of SACRE and the issues surrounding a humanist representative having full membership at meetings;
- (e) Members raised concerns over Jonathan Marshall's impending retirement in March 2018; he confirmed that the Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity had a contract with Plymouth City Council and it was hoped that a replacement SACRE advisor would be appointed;
- (f) 60% of schools were academies and didn't have to follow the national curriculum – what affect was this having upon teaching RE?
- (g) it was considered that money, time and the compulsion to teach RE was having a negative effect upon the subject;
- (h) Members discussed a parent's right to withdraw a child from RE studies and if this had a link to lack of tolerance and understanding of different religions; it was highlighted that religious education was to 'educate' pupils on a variety of religions and beliefs and not to impart a 'view'.

Agreed that –

1. Jonathan Marshall as Religious Advisor would respond to the Religion for All consultation on behalf of the SACRE; Members were asked to contact Jonathan direct with responses they would like included;
2. Members would be emailed a copy of a paper which detailed the duty and legal requirement of Local Authorities to support SACRE;
3. A letter would be written to Councillor Mrs Beer, as portfolio holder for Children and Young People, seeking assurance regarding the future of officer support for SACRE; this issue would also be raised at the Council's budget scrutiny meeting in January 2018.

### 22. **Developing RE in Plymouth**

Jonathan Marshall (RE Advisor) provided Members with an update on Developing RE in Plymouth and the training awareness session with Barbara Wintersgill at the last meeting. The session focused upon what was considered to be 'good RE' in Plymouth and how it could be further developed, especially in terms of "how" to teach RE rather than "what" to teach. It was highlighted that RE was a broad subject which focused upon different kinds of skills and values.

Members noted the update.

### 23. **National and Local RE Updates**

Katie Freeman provided Members with an update on National and Local RE matters.

Members were advised that –

- (a) on 22 November 2017 an RE Commissioner was due to visit St Matthew's School and look at how RE was taught; it was hoped that a community school would also be available for the Commissioner to visit;
- (b) Plymouth's RE Hub was very active and offered good training sessions; there was concern surrounding primary teachers feeling very 'squeezed' and how the Hub could provide support;
- (c) a film on why RE is important in schools, shaped by DHSB student, Alizeh Rahman, was due to be broadcast by ITV; SACRE Members would be advised of the date when this would be shown on TV;
- (d) not many teachers from Plymouth were able to attend the Learn RE Conference; it was considered this was due to funding and the cost of supply teachers;
- (e) Louise Skingle Head of RE from Hele's school will joint lead the Hub offering a secondary college perspective and support;



- (f) Ed Pawson was due to write some information for the Mayflower 400 commemoration ;
- (g) the South West SACRE conference was scheduled for 5 March 2018; SACRE had the funds to send 2/3 people.

Members noted the updates.

### 24. **Promoting Religious Tolerance in Schools and Implications for SACRE**

Jonathan Marshall (RE Advisor) advised Members that Alizeh Abdul Rahman was due to attend the meeting in order to provide an update on Promoting Religious Tolerance in Schools and Implications for SACRE however unfortunately she was unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments regarding her university application.

From an outline provided by Alizeh, Jonathan advised Members that she had been involved in work linked to Youth Parliament and religious tolerance in schools. As a result of conversations with pupils from Plympton Academy it was highlighted that students would welcome lessons that included a wider range of contemporary issues with more discussion and generally more interactive approaches. It is hoped that she will be able to attend the next SACRE meeting.

Members noted the update.

### 25. **Collective Worship in Schools**

Jonathan Marshall (RE Advisor) provided Members with an update on Collective Worship in Schools.

Members were advised that the document attached to the agenda was sent to Headteachers at every school in Plymouth in order to highlight the importance of collective worship.

Agreed that the paper on collective worship would be emailed to every Headteacher in all Plymouth schools.

### 26. **Remembering Solly Irving**

Jonathan Marshall (RE Advisor) paid tribute to Solly Irving.

Members were advised that Solly passed away in October 2017 and his family had organized a tribute to him at his local synagogue; Jonathan was asked by the family to attend and represent the 'Plymouth' aspect of his life. Jonathan initially contacted Solly in 2000 to come to Plymouth and speak to pupils regarding the Holocaust; from that first talk it was evident that Solly had a unique gift as he shared his personal experience of the Holocaust and came back to Plymouth every year. Solly shaped the lives of thousands of Plymouth's pupils, teachers and all who met him and he would be missed.

27. **HMD Plans for January 2018**

Jonathan Marshall (RE Advisor) provided Members with an update on Holocaust Memorial Day Plans for 27th January 2018.

Members were advised that Father Richard Silk, Chair of the Plymouth Council of Faiths and Chris Clewer (Chair of Churches together in Plymouth) were organizing the event for Plymouth and that the theme this year was; The Power of Words.

With this year's theme in mind, Members discussed the feasibility of planting a tree in the Peace Garden in memory of Solly Irving.

Members were also advised that Exeter's HMD concert event was scheduled for 1st February 2018.

28. **Date and venue of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 12 March 2018 at 1.30pm at All Saints Academy.

**SACRE REPORT**



**STANDING ADVISORY**

**COUNCIL on**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

***Annual Report***  
***2016 - 2017***

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## FOREWORD

### SACRE Chair's Report

The strong results again achieved by Plymouth students in GCSE Religious Education are to be celebrated as evidence of the commitment of our students and the skills of the city's teachers.

One highlight of this year's SACRE meetings was a talk from newly-elected Member of Plymouth Youth Parliament Alizeh Rahman. As part of her role, Alizeh visited schools, spoke with students and even taught lessons. Attending a SACRE meeting in the summer, Alizeh expressed her view that religious education is not simply learning about the main faiths but learning about the world we live in and the exploring the many complex issues that we all see in the news. We are all confident that Alizeh will continue to make a strong contribution to Religious Education in the years to come.

Jonathan Marshall will be relinquishing his long-held role as RE Advisor in March. It is important to place on record our sincere thanks for the years during which he has provided strong leadership, advice and guidance on Religious Education across the city. Jonathan is respected throughout Plymouth's schools for his breadth of knowledge, ability as an organiser and skill as a teacher. As Jonathan begins his well-earned retirement, I know that he will leave SACRE with everyone's appreciation and fondest wishes.

I also wish to record our thanks to Helen Rickman for the sterling work she has undertaken this year in providing administrative support to SACRE. Helen has ensured that our meetings have run smoothly and were recorded efficiently so that the good work being undertaken in Religious Education across the city's schools can be shared more widely.

It was with deep sadness that we learned of the passing of Mr Solly Irving (October 2017). For the final 17 years of his life, Solly devoted his energies to sharing his personal experience as a survivor of the Holocaust. Over that time, tens of thousands of staff and students across the city have been privileged to hear his testimony of the reality and brutality of the Nazi death camps. Solly often concluded his visits by reminding the audience that he would not be around forever and when that time came it would be for us to speak as his witness.

The power of words will be the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2018. Our words can make a difference – both for good and evil. As this is the first year when Solly will not be with us to share his experiences, it is for us all to remember his request and to act as his witness in the actions we take and the words we use.

Martin Edmonds  
Chair of Plymouth SACRE

## **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 profound 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 good quality 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.

Since the introduction of the new syllabus, feedback has been very positive. As we move forward, 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. Recent changes and updates to the Ofsted Framework for Inspection removed the requirement for Inspectors to report on Community Cohesion but Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and the promotion of fundamental British Values are viewed collectively 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 websites such as REonline; The Religious Education Council and NATRE. Links to these and other sites can be found on our local SACRE/RE website on Plymouth City Council’s School Room page.

### **2.2 Examination Results in Religious Studies**

**2.2.1** This year 13 Plymouth Secondary Schools entered a total of 821 candidates for the full GCSE examination in Religious Studies. In a year when the national figure dipped for the first time in many years, Plymouth’s entry represents just over 32% of the year groups, in these schools. 64% of students achieved grades A\*-C, (71% nationally) and with higher

entry numbers this represents continuing success for our students. 97% 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 106 students for the Advanced Level Religious Studies examinations and 99% achieved grades A\*-E.

**2.2.4** 10 Secondary schools, entered a total of 37 students for AS level and 67% achieved grades A\*-E. Although these results, for some, were disappointing SACRE is delighted with this approach and schools are to be commended on their commitment to offer Religious Studies at these levels.

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 hard work and achievements 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 enhance the development of high quality RE at all levels. This year the Centre, which operates as a Charitable Trust, is in its 18th year and is now happily settled into its new accommodation within the University Technology College (UTC) in Devonport.

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, which have extended and evolved over the past year and are supported by 39 active faith and cultural speakers. This year the Centre secured 72 subscribing schools from Plymouth and the surrounding area and 633 bookings were handled - the highest number yet! This continues to be a staggering year-on-year increase in numbers and demand for services.

The most popular visits to places of worship remain the Synagogue (60 visits) and PIETy Islamic Centre (21 visits).

The most popular visits to schools were from Jewish (65 visits), Muslim (60 visits), Hindu (47 visits), Christian (40 visits) and Buddhist (33 visits) speakers.

The most popular workshops in schools were Australian Culture (26), Japanese Culture (25) and Meditation Workshops (24)

The feedback from these visits, from both pupils and teachers, has again been extremely positive with regard to the impact they have had on classroom learning and the promotion of respect and understanding of religious and cultural diversity across the city.

Due to illness, our good friend, Solly Irving was unable to visit us in January to share his powerful testimony as a Jewish holocaust survivor.

(Although beyond the scope of this report, it seems appropriate, at this point, to provide a sad update. As has already been mentioned in the Chair's report, in October 2017, after battling with continuing ill health for several months, Solly died in London. He was 87 years old. A great friend to us in Plymouth, Solly gave tireless service each year as a speaker and witness of the holocaust. Solly regarded this as his duty and in memory of his father's words to him when he was eleven years old; "Stay alive and tell people what happened to us." He created a unique relationship with Plymouth schools and we estimate that over 30.000 students heard him speak during a sixteen year period. The outpouring of tributes from past and present students and teachers was deeply moving and we must now ensure that Solly's legacy and message continues and that holocaust education remains a priority.)

Through our SACRE RE Grants fund, we were able to support two local schools in their development of RE projects based on the priorities highlighted in the Plymouth Agreed Syllabus – Heritage, Diversity and Spirituality. This year both schools also linked their work to the forthcoming Mayflower 2020 theme. SACRE seeks to make this fund more widely available to schools.

### **4.2 Courses, Conferences, Meetings**

Helena Mitchell attended the South West SACRE Conference at Dillington in March which always provides practical support and encouragement for members. The key-note address was provided by Dr. Joyce Miller. A number of helpful and practical workshops and training sessions were also very well received.

### **4.3 Plymouth RE Hub**

This year has been a particularly exciting one and Katie Freeman notes that our RE Hub has benefited from support from SACRE. Many teachers took up the offer of free training provided by SACRE and the Synagogue to improve subject knowledge in Judaism. Teachers were given training alongside REToday resources to inspire them to teach at a deeper level, encouraging greater depth in RE. The hub has met six times this year and has been working on responses to the interim report from the Commission on RE, planning for progression in RE, assessment and guided reading materials based on different scripture and religious stories.

In her NATRE role Katie has been invited to attend the Labour Party conference to talk to members and MPs about the place of RE in the curriculum. This interesting opportunity has meant that she has been able to share discussions and views of RE with members as well as giving them up to the minute updates on developments within the subject. In November Plymouth RE hub was lucky enough to host Juliet Lyal (NATRE and Commission on RE) who told teachers about the recommendations in the RE Commission's interim report. The hub then held a discussion and responded to the commission, sharing its views. As a result of this, three members of the hub (Katie, Kayti and Tania) were invited to London to share their views on the entitlement with commissioners. The hub also held its



annual conference with Lat Blaylock (REToday) and Deborah Western (NATRE) which helped to build on the subject knowledge development in Islam from last year's SACRE training with Piety Islamic Centre.

Links between the hub and PCFCD are growing ever stronger and it has been a real strength to have Claire's support at conferences and hub meetings.

### **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 current 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. Through the work of SACRE members; Liz Hill, Head Teacher and Katie Freeman, a Collective Worship Resource folder, mainly for Key Stages 1 and 2, was launched in November 2013. A small working party has been re-visiting this issue and it hopes to produce further practical guidance and advice for schools in the autumn

#### **5.2 Complaints**

No complaints about collective worship have been received by SACRE this year.

### **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 and this continues at an informal level.

Much of the new syllabus remains common to all three Authorities but in Plymouth we continue to encourage schools to develop a unique, local approach based around the key themes; heritage, diversity and spirituality.

The annual South West SACRE Conference at Dillington also provides a wonderful opportunity for our representatives to meet, share ideas and concerns in an atmosphere of mutual support.

A Plymouth group also worked with colleagues across Devon and Torbay SACRE's on Assessment.

The RE Adviser is in regular contact with Devon SACRE and serves as a co-opted member.

#### **6.2 NASACRE**

SACRE acknowledges the essential role of NASACRE in providing 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, MarkAndrew Dearden attended the NASACRE AGM/Conference in York, on our behalf and provided SACRE members with feedback at their summer meeting.

### **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 and review standards within Religious Education and Collective Worship.

#### **7.1 Development Plan for 2014 - 2017**

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 has focused on three key areas of support and development:

- To provide support, training and resources, including SACRE Grants, for teachers to develop creative and innovative schemes of work related to the current RE syllabus with emphasis on our local heritage, diversity and spirituality
- To create SACRE/RE projects/guidance to promote good quality RE and Collective worship, especially in response to national and local developments. Ensure SACRE members' development
- Continue to support on-going events (e.g. part funding of Solly Irving and Holocaust Memorial Day related events), talks and promotion of RE and SACRE's work. Support for Plymouth RE hub

## APPENDICES

## A Religious Studies Examination Statistics 2001-2016

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
2017	13	821	32.6	397	424	63.8	97.0
2016	13	659	25.0	295	364	74.0	99.0
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 from 2016=18)	Number of candidates	% of year group entered in these schools	Boys	Girls	%A-E (A*-E from 2011)
2017	11	106	5.3	33	73	99
2016	10	93	4	35	58	100
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

<b>Examination - AS Level</b>	<b>Number of schools (Total = 15 secondary schools, 2010 onwards = 16)</b>	<b>Number of candidates</b>	<b>% of year group entered in these schools</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>%A-E</b>
2017	10	37	2	14	23	67.6
2016	10	68	3	27	41	90
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 published, in electronic form, on the Plymouth schoolroom website and sent to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) for publication on their website. It will be made available to teachers and parents on request.

## **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 to Plymouth SACRE this year.

### **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. 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 2016 - 2017**

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

Eight places

Astra Parkin	Baptist Church
Ian Kavanagh	Buddhist Community
vacant	Hindu Community
Bakari Arabi	Muslim Community
Anna Kelly	Jewish community
Helena Mitchell	Methodist Church
<i>Dr. David Lundy</i>	Roman Catholic Diocese of Plymouth
<i>Vacant</i>	United Reformed Church

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

Five places

Catherine Bowness	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter
Ed Pawson	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter
Katie Freeman	St. Matthews Prim&Nursery Academy
Alison Williams	Diocesan Board of Education, Exeter
MarkAndrew Dearden	University of St. Mark & St. John

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

Nine places (three vacancies)

Martin Edmonds	NASUWT
Gwen Hughes	NUT
Gary Fatcher	PASH
<i>Vacant</i>	NATRE
<i>Vacant</i>	VOICE
<i>Vacant</i>	UCU
Elizabeth Hill	PAPH (NAHT)

Alison Bradley	ATL
Mirella Paganuzzi	Special Schools

**Group D: The Local Authority**

Four places

Councillor Mary Aspinall	Plymouth City Council
Councillor Jonny Morris	Plymouth City Council
Councillor Jonathan Drean	Plymouth City Council
Councillor Richard Ball	Plymouth City Council

**Co-opted Representatives**

Six places

Sara Wells/Claire Linden	Centre for Faiths & Cultural Diversity
Margaret Thompson	Quaker Community
Rev Mark Mesley	Greek Orthodox Community
Jon Goulder	Plymouth Association of Governors
Ben Kerr	Humanist
Dr. Barbara Wintersgill	RE Consultant

**Officers**

Jonathan Marshall	Consultant Religious Education Adviser
Helen Rickman	Democratic Support Officer
Jamie Sheldon	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 2016 – 2017.

The Autumn Term meeting was held on 14th November 2016 at St Matthews’ Primary and Nursery Academy. Fifteen members and two officers were present and the issues discussed included:-

- New members and membership update
- The Prevent duty in schools– a report from Senior Adviser Heather Ogburn
- The Learn Teach Lead RE Project and LTL Conference
- The National Commission on RE
- Assessment working party
- Annual Report and Religious Studies Examination results – summer 2016
- Understanding Christianity – a resource for schools

- SACRE Development Plan
- Holocaust Memorial Day Plans 2017
- News and developments from the Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity

The Spring Term meeting was held on 27th March 2017 at the Council House, Plymouth. sixteen members and two officers were present and the issues discussed included:-

- Welcome to new members and membership issues
- SACRE Annual Report
- Plymouth RE hub and the Learn Teach Lead RE Project
- Local and National RE issues and developments
- What is religious literacy? - presentation
- Supporting teachers of RE in Plymouth – SACRE grants
- BIG NASACRE survey
- Feedback on HMD and future plans
- South west SACRE conference - feedback
- Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity
- Assessment and Collective Worship working groups

The Summer Term meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at the University College of St. Mark and St. John, Plymouth. Fifteen members and two officers were present and the issues discussed included:-

- Welcome to new members and membership update
- Future development of RE in Plymouth
- Feedback from the NASACRE AGM
- LearnTeachLead RE project – Plymouth Hub news
- Promoting religious tolerance in schools - presentation
- Assessment and Collective worship groups
- HMD future plans and possibilities
- Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity – developments
- Future RE Adviser support

Clerks to SACRE – Helen Rickman and Jamie Sheldon – Democratic Support Officers  
Consultant RE Adviser to Plymouth SACRE – Jonathan Marshall



## Local Authorities will continue to receive funding for SACREs and Agreed Syllabus Conferences.



Earlier this year, in response to a parliamentary question, Nick Gibb MP; Minister for School Standards, made a commitment that SACREs and Agreed Syllabus Conferences, **will continue to be funded by central government once the Education Services Grant is abolished** at the end of this financial year (2016-17).



In terms of future funding, NATRE has been in correspondence with the Department for Education and can now confirm that SACREs will be funded through the central school services block (CSSB) from 2018-19, which is one of the blocks in the national funding formula.



NATRE remains concerned that **there appear to be very large variations between local authorities in the proportion of this government grant that is spent on the work of SACREs.**

It might be interesting to those of you involved with SACREs to note that SACREs are listed under the column headed '**Responsibilities held for all schools**' as opposed to that headed, 'responsibilities held for maintained schools only'. This may be a recognition that the work of SACREs usually has an impact on academy schools and not just on the schools maintained by the local authority.

Teacher representatives involved in SACREs may wish to:

- share this document with your local SACRE Chair and Adviser (where there is one in post)
- ask that SACRE funding is placed on the agenda for the next meeting
- ask questions about funding at meetings. In particular:
  - what percentage is of the grant is spent on SACRE in the authority?
  - Has this figure been benchmarked against decisions in other authorities?
- share what they learn with NATRE so that we can monitor the situation in partnership with NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs).

### Technical Information to pass on to your local authority

For further information, see the [NFF Policy Document](#) and the [2018-19 Operational Guidance](#) (specifically paragraph 133 see extract in **appendix A**). Try to ignore the error in the title for SACRE 😞

The schedules (sch) referenced in the table are those in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2017. They concern expenditure in connection with the authority's functions in relation to the standing advisory council on religious education constituted by the authority under section 390 of the 1996 Act(b) or on the reconsideration and preparation of an agreed syllabus of religious education in accordance with Schedule 31 to the 1996 Act.

## Appendix A

## Statutory and regulatory duties -extract

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director of children’s services and personal staff for director (Sch 2, 15a)</li> <li>• Planning for the education service as a whole (Sch 2, 15b)</li> <li>• Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education (Sch 2, 22)</li> <li>• Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools’ budget shares (Sch 2, 15c)</li> <li>• Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Sch 2, 15d)</li> <li>• Internal audit and other tasks related to the authority’s chief finance officer’s responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 except duties specifically related to maintained schools (Sch 2, 15e)</li> <li>• Consultation costs relating to non-staffing issues (Sch 2, 19)</li> <li>• Plans involving collaboration with other LA services or public or voluntary bodies (Sch 2, 15f)</li> <li>• <b>Standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACREs) (Sch 2, 17)</b></li> <li>• Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools (Sch 2, 21)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functions of LA related to best value and provision of advice to governing bodies in procuring goods and services (Sch 2, 56)</li> <li>• Budgeting and accounting functions relating to maintained schools (Sch 2, 73)</li> <li>• Functions relating to the financing of maintained schools (Sch 2, 58)</li> <li>• Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure in respect of schools which do not have delegated budgets, and related financial administration (Sch 2, 57)</li> <li>• Monitoring of compliance with requirements in relation to the scheme for financing schools and the provision of community facilities by governing bodies (Sch 2, 58)</li> <li>• Internal audit and other tasks related to the authority’s chief finance officer’s responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 for maintained schools (Sch 2, 59)</li> <li>• Functions made under Section 44 of the 2002 Act (Consistent Financial Reporting) (Sch 2, 60)</li> <li>• Investigations of employees or potential employees, with or without remuneration to work at or for schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Sch 2, 61)</li> </ul>

## Religious Education at KS4: what are the options

Data from the DfE's workforce survey shows that 28% of schools are failing to allocate any curriculum time for RE<sup>1</sup>. Given that RE is a statutory subject throughout the whole of a child's formal schooling (in each year group from 5-18 years), what are the options for its teaching? The table below sets out the options available for schools at KS4, giving recommendations about how schools can comply with their legal expectations to provide RE for all.

NATRE recommends any system of RE teaching where all students are being:

- given their entitlement to receive high quality RE
- taught by trained and experienced RE teachers
- given enough time to fulfil the legal expectations and/or the requirements set down by the examination awarding bodies

Pathway	Course title	Qualification	Teaching context	Advantages	Disadvantages
Pathway 1A Recommended by NATRE	RS full course	GCSE	Option groups	Gives students the option to study RS as a full GCSE. Helpful for those going on to A level RS.	
	RS short course	GCSE (short course)	Remainder of cohort	Provides a suitable level of RE input for all students leading to a relevant qualification Fulfils an entitlement to RE for all	Since the removal of the short course from school performance tables in 2014, schools have steadily turned away from its use as a means to offer core RE at KS4.
Pathway 1B Recommended by NATRE	RS full course	GCSE	Option groups	Gives students the option to study RS as a full GCSE. Helpful for those going on to A level RS.	
	RE core	none	Remainder of cohort	Provides a suitable level of RE input for all students	Requires careful curriculum construction and specialist RE teachers

<sup>1</sup> State of the Nation report

				Fulfils an entitlement to RE for all	Can be hard to teach, where students perceive that study does not lead to a qualification
Pathway 1C Not recommended by NATRE	RS full course	GCSE	Option groups	Gives students the option to study RS as a full GCSE. Helpful for those going on to A level RS.	
			No provision for other students		<b>This arrangement does not comply with the law.</b>
Pathway 2A Recommended by NATRE	RS full course	GCSE	Whole cohort 2 hours + per week	Provides RE for all	
Pathway 2B Not recommended by NATRE	RS full course	GCSE	Whole cohort 1 hours per week, often starting in Year 9	Provides RE for all	<p>There is a growing body of evidence to suggest that, in many schools, full course GCSE RS is being taught on too little curriculum time. Where the curriculum model is set to teach GCSE RS on one hour per week. This is of concern for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 It puts teachers and students alike under significant strain to cover the specification content in adequate depth and detail to gain a rounded understanding of the topics</li> <li>2 GCSE courses are designed to be studied by 14-16 year-olds. It is unethical for children younger than this to be exposed to some of the curriculum content.</li> <li>3 Danger of narrowing the KS3 curriculum.</li> </ol>

Pathway 3 NATRE has reservations about this model	Core RE for all	none		Fulfils the entitlement to RE for all	Requires careful curriculum construction and specialist RE teachers Can be hard to teach, where students perceive that study does not lead to a qualification
Pathway 4 NATRE has reservations about this model	Drop-down days	none		Offers an entitlement to RE for all	Likely to be non-compliant, because there will be insufficient time allocated to these days in total It may be considered to put an unacceptable stress on teachers, who are expected to teach a full timetable AND organise additional, high quality RE days
Pathway 5 Not recommended by NATRE	RE through PSHE or Personal Development	none	various		RE delivered by non-specialist teachers through tutor-time or PSHE lacks rigour and very easily gets 'lost'

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