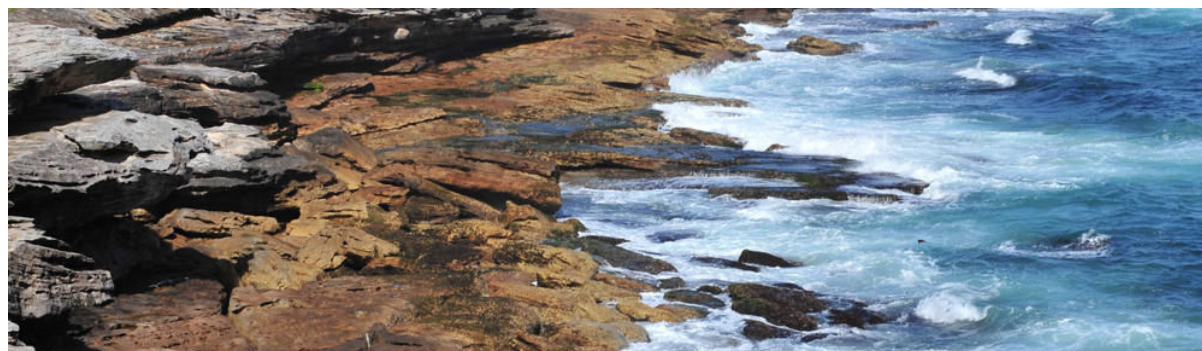


# LEARN/TEACH/LEAD: Enhancing RE in the South-West

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

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May 2013



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

*From: Linda Rudge, Project Director*

*Dear SACRE member*

*Thank you for your interest and partnership in the project. This paper is a report for Standing Advisory Councils meeting during the summer term in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, in Devon, in Plymouth, and in Torbay. This second briefing paper for SACRE partners reminds members of the context to the project and its aims, and introduces the different elements of the work to be achieved during the three years of its duration- 2012-15. The paper also updates members on hub developments and appointments of PLREs, and contains information about the next conference (October 2013).*

### **The Project**

The overall aim of the project is to identify and address unmet needs of RE (Religious Education) teachers in Devon, Cornwall, Plymouth and Torbay and thereby to improve the quality of teaching & learning outcomes, and leadership. It intends to achieve this by the leadership of local teachers in clusters/hubs across the region, working closely with established advisory staff in local authorities, diocesan boards of education and universities.

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

## **Hub Leaders**

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

Supported by steering group members, and by the equivalent of two days training each year, PLREs are expected to lead the hub groups in developing quality RE which raises standards and improves teacher knowledge and confidence.

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

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

## **Hub Meetings**

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

## **Training for PLREs**

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

## **The Steering Group**

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

### *Current membership of the steering group*

Exeter Diocesan Board of Education: Tatiana Wilson  
Truro Diocesan Board of Education: Irene Pooley  
Cornwall LA/SACRE: David Hampshire  
Devon LA/SACRE and NATRE: Ed Pawson  
Torbay LA/SACRE: David Hampshire  
Plymouth LA/SACRE: Jonathan Marshall  
University of Exeter: Karen Walshe  
University of St Mark and St John: Teresa Griffiths  
Teacher representative (St Luke's Foundation): Giles Freathy  
St Luke's College Foundation (Trustees): Dick Powell and Barbara Wintersgill

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

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

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

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

CPD needs identified in the research underpinning the project tend to be associated with uncertainties about RE:

- *'the core purpose of the subject*
- *how attainment is defined*

- *the way pupils' progress is defined*
- *how key concepts and questions can be used in RE*
- *how to secure continuity and progression in the RE curriculum*
- *the way to structure and define a clear process of learning in RE*
- *the approach to teaching about Christianity*
- *ways of balancing the need to foster respect for pupils' religions and beliefs within open, critical, investigative learning in RE*
- *the place of teaching about humanism and non-religious beliefs.*

*(OFSTED, 2010<sup>1</sup>).*

The project's data can be clustered around these headings, although the approach to teaching about Christianity is not explicitly identified as an 'unmet need' in the SW region; this might indicate a misconception about this area, not that 'all is well'. There are others, such as the ambiguous legal position of RE in different school settings and the impact of this ambiguity on continuity and progression. The need to celebrate the diverse nature of religion, religions, spiritualities and worldviews represented in agreed syllabuses have all been mentioned in hub groups, with a plea for more resources and opportunities to enable interfaith dialogue in (and beyond) schools. There have also been requests for more exemplification of units of work and examples of pupils' learning. Teachers are keen to observe outstanding practice in other schools.

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

Our findings also indicate that individualised paths to learning, or particular school needs, are probably beyond the scope of the current project. Other providers (e.g. RE-Online, the RE Quality Mark and the National Association for Teachers of RE) are already working with us in our efforts to support teachers and other educators across the south-west.

**The next report to SACREs will be circulated following the conference in October 2013.**

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