

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

6 February 2024

Present:-

Group A: Christian and Other Religion and Belief Communities (with the exception of the Church of England)

K Denby, J Carpenter, P Hannam, G Kang, W Houghton, M Miller,
J Taylorson, L Newson

Group B: The Church of England

S Gill, C Hulbert, J Hunter, K Keatley

Group C: Teachers Associations

R Flanagan, P Hammett, W Harrison, J Matthews, B Twiggs (Vice-Chair),

Group D: Devon County Councillors

Councillors, J Bradford, C Channon, D Sellis,

Co-opted Members

J Goody, R Northcott, S Spence

54 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2023 were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

55 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There was no item raised requiring urgent attention.

56 Devon SACRE Membership

The Committee noted that Leonore Newsom has joined Devon SACRE as Pagan representative of Group A and would be replacing Maia Miller.

57 Standards in Schools: Monitoring and Ofsted

Devon SACRE members received an update on the findings published in recent Ofsted reports, particularly where comments relate to Religious Education (RE), collective worship or Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC) of pupils.

It was **NOTED** that Ofsted reports from a number of primary schools made reference to issues relating to RE provision and that two schools had specifically been followed up with regard to comments in their reports and whether assistance could be offered.

Congratulations were offered to ISCA for excellent published GCSE RE results.

It was noted, from national data, that where a higher percentage of the Year 11 cohort was entered for GCSE RS examinations, progress was higher than where a smaller percentage of the cohort were entered for the exam.

During general discussion, the following issues were raised:

- Greater subject knowledge for teachers would be helpful
- The subject title is an issue regards to take up of option subject, whether the title be 'worldviews' or RE.

58 Devon and Torbay SACRE - Agreed Syllabus Review and Launch

The Committee **NOTED** that the new syllabus would be completed by the end of March 2024, with a launch programme in the summer term 2024. Schools would teach the new syllabus from September 2024.

Syllabus launch events would be held across Devon and Plymouth on 17th, 18th, 19th June 2024, led by syllabus-writers Fiona Moss and Stephen Pett (RE Today).

The cost of the new syllabus will be £35 per school and it was noted that an electronic copy of the syllabus would be provided to every school in Devon (including academies).

Devon County Council will initially fund the new syllabus and a significant proportion of this cost will be recovered through the 'paid-for' launch events.

Ongoing training for teachers as a follow-up to the introduction of this new syllabus, to be via the Learn Teach Lead RE (LTLRE) conference and hub meetings.

59 Learn Teach Lead RE: Update

During general discussion, the Committee **NOTED** the report and that:

- the next annual conference was scheduled for 11 October 2024, at the St Mellion Conference Centre.

- Hubs have been meeting both in person and also virtually over the last year. Hub leaders training will take place on 1 March and 5 July 2024.
- A number of new hub leaders have been appointed recently, helping to renew the programme.
- The new SWIFT hub continues to be very successful.

Hub Leaders gave an update about the South Devon hub and the Exeter hub, highlighting a visit to the Quaker meeting house by the Exeter hub members and also that both hubs welcome greater involvement by schools.

60 **Regional and National Developments: RE Hubs, National Content Standard in RE, Ofsted, Religion and Worldviews frameworks**

During general discussion the Committee **NOTED** the report and that the RE Hubs website was available at <https://www.re-hubs.uk>. Information on the website included courses and events, local groups and how to contact your local hub.

The final version of the Religion and Worldviews handbook for syllabus writers and curriculum developers would be published in May 2024.

The handbook is designed to support RE curriculum leaders in translating the RE Council's vision of an excellent education for all in religion and worldviews into a syllabus. RE syllabus frameworks from three school based teams to be published as part of the document.

61 **Devon SACRE Annual Report**

The Committee **NOTED** that the annual report that summed up the work of Devon SACRE 2022-2023 would be sent to schools.

62 **Young Ambassadors**

The Committee **NOTED** that the Devon SACRE Advisor and staff at Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust would be undertaking work to train and empower a group of primary and secondary students to become Ambassadors for Freedom of Religion or Belief.

The project aimed that the young Ambassador's would work with the students at Okehampton Primary School and Okehampton College, towards a significant community event in 2024. This would be followed by a visit to Westminster in June 2025 to address MPs and Lords about the importance of RE.

The project is led by the Association of RE Inspectors and Advisers (AREIAC) and funded by Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

63 **Anthony Mangnall MP correspondence**

The Committee **NOTED** the letter received from Anthony Mangnall MP addressing the Vice Chair's comments received. It was considered that a follow up letter be sent highlighting the shortage of teachers in secondary schools.

64 **Holocaust Memorial Day - Feedback from 2024**

The Committee **NOTED** the recent Memorial Day events under the theme 'Fragility of Freedom'.

65 **SACRE Training**

Devon SACRE **NOTED** the NASACRE training programme and that the South West Conference would be held in March 2024.

66 **Future Devon SACRE Meetings**

Future meetings to be held on the following dates commencing at 10am

Thursday 20 June 2024

Monday 4 November 2024

The South West SACRE conference to be held online on Monday 4 March 2024.

NOTES:

1. *Minutes should always be read in association with any Reports for a complete record.*
2. *If the meeting has been webcast, it will be available to view on the [webcasting site](#) for up to 12 months from the date of the meeting*

*** DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 10.00am and finished at 12.07pm