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To: The Chair and Members
of the Standing Advisory
Council on Religious
Education

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD

Date: 15 June 2023

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Friday, 23rd June, 2023

A meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education is to be held on the above date at 10.00 am at Daw Room, County Hall, Exeter to consider the following matters.

Donna Manson
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART I - OPEN COMMITTEE

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2023.

3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

Items which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

4 Devon SACRE Constitution (Pages 5 - 10)

In 2021 a working party met to review the Devon SACRE constitution. The changes made were duly ratified by a full SACRE meeting (17/02/2022).

Since then we have been unable to get this constitution signed off officially by the Council.

Thanks to the work of the Democratic Services Department we now have a date set for this to be approved by Cabinet. We are therefore bringing it back to this meeting, with 2 minor alterations, to be fully accepted by SACRE.

It RECOMMENDED that:

- 1) Devon SACRE agree the constitution
- 2) Note that the constitution be put forward to Cabinet for approval at their July 2023 meeting.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

5 Devon SACRE Membership

Warren Houghton replaces Helena Hastie as Baha'i representative.
David Tollerton joins the group from Exeter University.

Spokespersons for the four groups are as follows:

Group A, Christian and other Religion and Belief Communities (with the exception of the Church of England) - Bill Becher;

Group B, The Church of England (Diocesan Board of Education) – Tatiana Wilson;

Group C, Teachers' Associations – Belinda Twiggs;

Group D, The County Council - Councillor Dan Thomas

It is RECOMMENDED that this be NOTED.

6 Standards: Monitoring and Ofsted Reports (Pages 11 - 16)

The purpose of this report is to update SACRE members 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.

The report recommends that SACRE officers should contact a few specified schools to either congratulate them on their outstanding practice, or to offer curriculum support in specified areas.

It is RECOMMENDED that the report be NOTED.

7 Agreed Syllabus Review (Pages 17 - 18)

The purpose of this report is to update SACRE members on the progress of the review of the Devon Agreed Syllabus. An Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) has been set up to coordinate the process. The ASC has a similar structure to the main SACRE body, so requires at least one member from each Group (A-D). We are pleased to say that the Devon SACRE ASC has members from all required groups.

An initial meeting of the ASC met on 11th May to discuss decisions made so far, and to guide the process forward. This meeting was quorate, with members from all 4 groups in attendance. This meeting was held in conjunction with members of Torbay SACRE. Notes from the meeting are appended to this report.

It is RECOMMENDED that this be NOTED.

8 Learn Teach Lead RE: Update

The purpose of this report is to update SACRE members on the progress of the Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE) hub network.

An annual conference has been planned for October 2023, at the St Mellion Conference Centre. This conference is to be addressed by Lat Blaylock, RE Today. Bookings open in June.

Hub leaders training is planned for 7th July 2023. Unfortunately training had to be cancelled in February, due to illness and lack of availability.

Many hubs have been meeting in person over the last year, with others continuing to offer their meetings virtually. The new SWIFT hub has been very successful.

We are pleased to announce that new hub leaders have recently been appointed in Exeter and Plymouth.

It is RECOMMENDED that this be NOTED.

9 Regional and National Developments: RE Hubs, Census data, Bloom Review, anti-Hindu hate report, SACREs and the law

This update relates to the national updates for the Devon SACRE meeting (June 2023)

Introducing the RE Hubs project
<https://www.re-hubs.uk/>

Census data
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/religion/bulletins/religionenglandandwales/census2021>

Bloom Review: Does Government do God?
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-needs-to-better-understand-faith-independent-review-claims>

Anti-Hindi-hate report
Report - <https://henryjacksonsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/HJS-Anti-Hindu-Hate-in-Schools-Briefing.pdf>
Film - https://youtu.be/UxzhbGt_LOc

SACREs and the law
<https://humanists.uk/2023/05/30/landmark-high-court-win-for-humanist-judge-rules-he-cannot-be-excluded-from-local-re-committee/>

It is RECOMMENDED that the updates be NOTED.

10 NASACRE Conference Report

The Adviser to Devon SACRE will give an update regarding the NASACRE conference.

It is RECOMMENDED that the update be NOTED.

11 Quality Mark: Seeking Funding for Schools?

The Adviser to Devon SACRE will give an update about seeking funding for schools.

It is RECOMMENDED that the update be NOTED.

12 Holocaust Memorial Day - Planning for 2024

The Adviser to Devon SACRE will give an update regarding the planning of Holocaust Memorial Day 2024.

It is RECOMMENDED that the update be NOTED.

13 SACRE Training

The Adviser to Devon SACRE will give an update regarding training opportunities.

It is RECOMMENDED that the update be NOTED.

STANDING ITEMS

14 Future SACRE Meetings

Dates for future meetings to be held at 10.00am on the following dates

Wednesday 15 November 2023;
Tuesday 6 February 2024;
Thursday 20 June 2024;
Monday 4 November 2024

It is RECOMMENDED that the future meeting dates be NOTED.

PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC ON THE GROUNDS THAT EXEMPT INFORMATION MAY BE DISCLOSED

NIL

Members are reminded that Part II Reports contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s). They need to be disposed of carefully and should be returned to the Democratic Services Officer at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.

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