

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

20 June 2024

Present:-

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

K Denby, M Hext, M Miller, L Newson, D Regis

Group B: The Church of England

K Keatley, J Roberts, E Underwood

Group C: Teachers Associations

P Hammett, W Harrison, P Randall, S Cornwall

Group D: Devon County Councillors

Councillors, J Bradford, C Slade, D Thomas

Co-opted Members

J Goody, R Northcott, S Spence

Apologies: C Cornwall, R Nathwani, J Taylorson, W Houghton, C Hulbert, B Twiggs, R Flanagan, Pat Hannam, E Mihas, J Matthews, Cllr Channon

67 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2024 were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

68 **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There was no item raised requiring urgent attention.

69 **Devon SACRE Membership**

The Committee **NOTED** the following changes to the membership of the Committee:

Group A- Christian and Other Religions and Belief Communities, with the exception of the Church of England

Leonore Newson replaced Maia Miller as Pagan representative
Dr Dave Regis replaced Keith Denby as Humanist representative

Group C - Teachers Associations

Susannah Cornwall replaced David Tollerton as the Universities representative

Gerry Winnall has stepped down from the Committee

Group D – The County Council

Councillor Colin Slade replaced Councillor Margaret Squires

The committee thanked Maia Miller, Keith Denby, Gerry Winnall and Councillor Squires for their work for Devon SACRE.

Leonore Newson, Susannah Cornwall and Councillor Slade all introduced themselves to the committee and welcomed their appointment to the committee.

It was noted that the recently revised SACRE constitution included that members would serve a maximum of four years, followed by another term of four years unless it was considered that the position could not be easily be replaced.

It was recognised that although it was important to draw in new members, it was also important to retain expertise.

70 Standards In Schools: Monitoring and Ofsted

The Committee received an update on the findings published in recent Ofsted reports, particularly where comments related to religious education (RE) collective worship or spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.

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

It was also noted that deep dive reviews were chosen on a random basis as these had recently occurred in both Exmouth and Sidmouth schools.

71 Devon and Torbay SACRE - Agreed Syllabus Review and Launch

The recent launch events promoting the new syllabus led by Fiona Moss and Stephen Pett of had been well received in Bideford (45 delegates attended) Exeter (130 delegates attended) and Plymouth (41 delegates attended) and the Committee **NOTED** that feedback from delegates was very positive.

The online launch session is scheduled to be held on 10 July 2024. 40 delegates had already registered to attend.

Ongoing training for teachers would be provided during 2024/25 via inset day training, the Learn Teach Lead RE (LTLRE) conference and hub meetings.

The cost of £35 per school for the syllabus had been funded by Devon County Council however, a significant proportion of this cost was expected to be recouped through the launch events.

During general discussion the Committee made the following comments:

- that those Multi Academy Trusts not engaged at the launch should be contacted;
- teachers recognised a proportion of people have non-religious views;
- the importance of Key Stage 4 non-examination study;
- Special school tuition of worldviews;
- following the complaint made by Devon SACRE to the Department for Education in 2022 regarding the reduction of RE provision in a specific multi academy trust (MAT), subject learning has been restored in that MAT.

72 Learn Teach Lead RE Update

The Committee NOTED the following :

- that the 2024 annual conference was scheduled for 4 October 2024.
- hub leaders training would be taking place on 1 March, 5 July or 3 October 2024
- Devon hub groups have held a mix of hybrid face-to-face meetings during the year and a number of new leaders have been recently identified.
- an update was made regarding the East Devon/Exeter hub and the importance of offering guidance and advice to school.

73 Briefing for Devon schools Head Teachers

It was **NOTED** that the Chair and Advisor of the Committee would be addressing headteachers on the 27 June 2024. The update would include how well the launch of the new syllabus had been received, time teaching RE in schools and the latest Ofsted reports.

74 Regional and National Developments: RE Hubs, National Content Standard in RE, Ofsted report, Religion and Worldviews Handbook

The Committee **NOTED** the current updates on the RE Hub website.

The Committee also received an update about the development of the Handbook on Religion and Worldview.

- the project is for three years;
- it would build on the religion and worldviews approach advocated by independent commission on religious education 2018;
- it offers an approach to RE which is academically rigorous and multidisciplinary;

- it draws on the lived experience of those that inhabit both religious and religious world views;
- it draws on the best that RE has traditionally offered and uses the subject into dialogue with contemporary academic approaches

The handbook is designed as:

- a tool kit for development of the core vision of religion and worldviews approach;
- it is offered as a resource as part of an ongoing conversation;
- a new way to handle religious and non-religious beliefs and ways of living in the RE classroom;
- it works towards an understanding of how worldviews work in human experience increasing the pupils own;
- to increase an understanding of the world and people themselves

75 Young Ambassadors Project update

The Committee received an update about the Young Ambassador project.

The update included that they have

- written questions for the Children's Commissioner Rachel DeSouza;
- been involved in the making of a film for the REady work campaign;
- visits to places of religion and worldview significant in Exeter;
- a campaign for a prayer room in the school

The Committee requested that representatives from the Young Ambassadors project be invited to a future Devon SACRE meeting.

76 Holocaust Memorial Day: Planning for 2025

The Committee **NOTED** that Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) would be held on 27 January 2025 and the theme is to be 'For a better future'. A meeting of the HMD 2025 planning group to be convened.

77 Future Devon SACRE meetings

The Committee noted the dates of future meetings:

Monday 4 November 2024
Thursday 6 February 2025
Tuesday 17 June 2025
Thursday 13 November 2025

The NASACRE Executive had made an application to become a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) and have offered an online forum on 9 July 2024 to hear and discuss questions and comments about the plans. The Chair would attend the session.

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 10.00 am and finished at 11.55 am