

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

9 February 2023

Present

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

W Becher, K Denby, J Carpenter, M Miller

Group B: The Church of England

C Hulbert, K Keatley, T Wilson

Group C: Teachers Associations

P Hammett, W Harrison, E Mihas, B Twigg, R Flanagan

Group D: Devon County Councillors

T Adams, J Bradford, C Channon, M Squires, D Thomas

Co-opted Members

J Goody, R Northcott, S Spence

Apologies:-

M Hext, R Nathwani, J Taylorson, J Roberts, P Randall, E Pawson and E Underwood

13 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2022 were signed as a correct record subject to an amendment that Belinda Twigg is part of Group C.

14 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

15 Devon SACRE Membership

- The representatives of each group 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 – Tatiana Wilson

Group C – Teachers Associations – Belinda Twiggs

Group D – County Council – TBC

- Helena Hastie to step down as Baha'i representative (group A)

16 Standards: Monitoring and Ofsted reports

Members were updated 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 (SMSC) of pupils. Support to be offered to schools reported to need support.

Schools in Topsham, Stoke Canon and St Helens are to be congratulated on their outstanding practice.

The following link was requested to be included for information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education/research-review-series-religious-education>

17 Devon SACRE: Agreed Syllabus Review

An Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) would be set up to coordinate the process review.

Members nominated:

Group A – Keith Denby

Group B – Kelly Keatley, Claire Hulbert

Group C - Belinda Twiggs, Ruth Flanagan

Group D – Dan Thomas

The initial meeting of the ASC, in conjunction with members of Torbay SACRE would be called during the Spring Term 2023 to scope the role and purpose of the group.

18 Learn Teach Lead RE: updates

A successful annual conference, addressed by Dr Richard Kueh, Ofsted lead for RE was held in October 2022, with over 100 delegates in attendance at the St Mellion Conference Centre.

Hub leaders met in the preceding afternoon for a training session.

More hub leader training sessions are planned for the Spring and Summer terms 2023. Jason Singh has been invited to the South Devon and Torbay LTLRE Hub on March 2023 session to bring Art and Beliefs together.

Many hubs have been meeting in person over the last year, with others continuing to offer meetings virtually. It was noted that the new SWIFT Online hub had been very successful.

During general discussion it was noted that Quaker representatives had visited year 7 and 9 students.

19 National Developments

During discussion it was noted:

- The Department for Education's workforce survey showed that one in five schools offer zero hours in RE in year 11.
- 27.4% of academies without a religious character reported provision of zero hours of RE to year 11.
- The Schools Minister had encouraged use of the complaints process to address concerns about schools not providing RE. Devon SACRE had submitted a complaint with no satisfactory conclusion due to no clear benchmark on acceptability.
- A number of webinars are available through Regional RE Hubs and attendance was encouraged. (marketing@regionalrehubs.co.uk)
- A national standard for RE was being pursued.
- Consideration that some specialised teacher training for the subject should be mandatory
- Promotion of a free of charge course devised by Exeter University. Details: <https://courses.cstg.org.uk/course/index.php>

20 Holocaust Memorial Day:

- Over 600 people gathered for the opening ceremony at Exeter Cathedral, including representatives from a variety of faith and community groups.
- Rob Rinder and Bernie Graham gave a presentation, describing some of the work with secondary school children across the country.
- Over 200 school pupils were involved in the Exeter events from eight schools across the County.
- Presentations were given on Kindertransport and the Gypsy Holocaust
- The closing ceremony was hosted by the Jewish community Philippe Sands (author and International Human Rights lawyer) would be speaking at the Exeter commemorations on Friday 26th January 2024
- A number of Committee Members expressed their appreciation for the work undertaken for the organisation of the event in Exeter.

21 Exploring Diversity in Devon Schools

The scheduled session led by Lorna Legg to be rescheduled to the 23 June 2023 meeting

22 **Future SACRE Meetings**

The next meeting of the Committee to be held at 10.00am on Friday 23 June 2023 at County Hall, Exeter.

23 **SACRE Training**

The South West SACRE conference will be held online on the 6th March 2023 at 1-4pm.

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 10.50 am