

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

23 June 2023

Present:-

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

J Carpenter, K Denby, W Houghton, M Miller, R Nathwani

Group B: The Church of England

J Roberts (Chair) S Gill, C Hulbert, K Keatley, E Underwood, T Wilson

Group C: Teachers Associations

C Cornwell, R Flanagan, P Hammett, W Harrison, J Matthews, E Mihas, P Randall, B Twiggs, G Winnall

Group D: Devon County Councillors

Cllr Adams, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Squires

Co-opted Members

R Northcott, S Spence,

Also

N Alam, S Bissett

Apologies:-

W Becher, M Hext, J Taylorson, J Goody, Cllr Bradford, Cllr Channon and Cllr Sellis

24 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2023 were signed as correct record subject to an amendment that Sandra Gill gave her apologies for absence.

25 **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

Notification of forthcoming session

Satish Kumar is to speak at Devon Faith and Belief Forum annual meeting on Thursday 6 July 6pm – 7.45pm at the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter. The session is free of charge and open to all members of the public.

Booking available https://devonfaiths.org.uk/event/satish-kumar-ecology-and-spirituality/?instance_id=236

26 Devon SACRE Constitution

The Committee noted and agreed the amendments to the constitution originally put before them on the 17 February 2022.

Group C – additional representative to Group C to represent Multi Academy trusts (13 in total)

Group D – 7 representatives in total from Devon County Council.

Resolved:

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

27 Devon SACRE Membership

It was noted that the following representatives have joined the Committee:

Warren Houghton (Group A - Baha'i)

David Tollerton (Group C - Exeter University)

Neomi Alam (attendance at meeting in visitor capacity)

28 Standards: Monitoring and Ofsted Reports

Members received an update on the findings published in the recent Ofsted reports. It was considered that it would be useful that SACRE officers contact specific schools to either congratulate them on their outstanding practice or to offer curriculum support in specific areas.

29 Agreed Syllabus Review

It was noted that an 'Agreed Syllabus conference (ASC) was to be convened following the last SACRE meeting to co-ordinate the process review. The ASC met on the 11 May 2023, all groups were represented and made the following conclusions:

- Introduction of the new syllabus in Sept 2024
- That there is a minimal shift from the current syllabus (which is valued by teachers)
- That more 'lesson-ready' resources be made available
- That units embody more diversity

- That units reflect the local lived experience of people's religious and non-religious worldviews
- That units take a more fully worldviews approach
- Launch events be planned for June 2024
- That teachers be offered follow-up training

During general discussion, Members referred to more input on Humanism. It was also suggested that this should be brought into the curriculum throughout primary years rather than at the end of KS2. Keith Denby welcomed the support of SACRE members and commented that he visited many settings to discuss Humanism and considered that a number of students were able to identify with it.

Other members made reference to teachers offering more depth to the subject and 'how religion is captured' in the teaching of the curriculum. It was about the importance of marketing and ensuring teachers felt confident in teaching the subject in an engaging manner.

Members noted the survey results 2023 where the vast majority of settings used the Devon and Torbay RE Syllabus and that advantage had been taken of the RE CPD offered by SACRE/the Diocese/LTLRE Hub groups/RE Today. In response to key ways in which the syllabus could be improved, the survey showed the top 3 points were:

- More lesson ready power point presentations
- More detail on assessments
- More materials on 'how to'

It was anticipated that a draft document would be ready for the next SACRE meeting in November 2023 for consideration

30 Learn Teach Lead RE: Update

- The annual LTLRE conference is to be held at the St Mellion Conference Centre in October 2023.
- Hub Leaders training is planned for 7 July 2023
- New hub leaders have been appointed in Exeter and Plymouth.
- A recent survey showed that engagement with a local hub had given greater confidence in leading RE and Hub leaders were reported as approachable and supportive.

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

During general discussion it was noted:

- That a RE Hubs website had been recently been launched at <https://www.re-hubs.uk>
- That the percentage of the population in England and Wales reporting 'no religion' had increased from 14.1million in 2011 to 22.2 million in 2021
- That there are three types of 'nones' (those who state they have 'no religion')
 - campaigning 'nones' are self-consciously atheistic and hostile to religion
 - tolerant 'nones' are broadly atheistic but accepting/ warm towards religion
 - spiritual 'nones' embrace a range of spiritual beliefs and practices
- That recommendation 7 (chapter 3) of the Bloom Review states 'Government should look again at why RE in schools has become the 'Cinderella subject' and should consider methods for improving the teaching of faith literacy and RE, with a view to cultivating a more inclusive society where people of all backgrounds are able to engage in debate about the different faiths and beliefs that shape society.
- 51% of parents of Hindu pupils surveyed report that their child had experienced anti-Hindu hate in schools, whilst fewer than 1% of schools with Indian pupils queried by FOI reported any anti-Hindu-related incidents in the last five years.
- Humanist Steve Bowen had successfully challenged his local authority's refusal to admit him to his local SACRE. It had been deemed unlawful for Kent County Council to refuse his membership.

32 **NASACRE Conference Report**

Keynote Address: The role of SACREs in the emerging educational landscape.

Ed Pawson invited members of Devon SACRE to consider standing to be on the NASACRE executive.

33 **Quality Mark: Seeking Funding for Schools?**

SACRE heard about an initiative suggesting that schools make more use of the RE Quality mark criteria statements.

Devon SACRE aims:

- To raise the standard of RE in schools
- To encourage more schools to use the REQM standards criteria as a tool to develop their RE curriculum provision
- To support schools in applying for the RE Quality Mark award

Funding suggestions were as follows:

- To apply for trust funding to enable SACRE to jointly support schools in their application for REQM assessment (cost is £495)

- to offer a financial support to 2 primary and 2 secondary schools in a year
- to offer £250 per school (£125 from SACRE, £125 from Trust funding)
the total cost to SACRE: £500 per year

The SACRE Adviser to report back to a future meeting about the quality mark.

34 Holocaust Memorial Day - Planning for 2024

The Holocaust Memorial Day theme for 2023 is Fragility of Freedom

35 SACRE Training

Lorna Legg will attend the next SACRE meeting on the 15 November to explore Diversity in Devon Schools

36 Future SACRE Meetings

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

Wednesday 15 November 2023
Tuesday 6 February 2024
Thursday 20 June 2024
Monday 4 November 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 10.00 am and finished at 12:30