

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

4 November 2024

Present:-

Group A: Christian and Other Religion and Belief Communities, with the Exception of the Church of England

Warren Houghton, Jude Taylorson, Patricia Hannam, Gurmit Kang

Group B: The Church of England

Sandra Gill, Claire Hulbert, Kelly Keatley (Vice Chair), Jeremy Roberts

Group C: Teachers' Associations

Susannah Cornwall, Ruth Flanagan, Penny Hammett, Wendy Harrison, Belinda Twiggs (Chair)

Group D: Devon County Council

Cllr Tracy Adams, Cllr Christine Channon, Cllr Ron Peart, Cllr Colin Slade

Co-opted: John Goody

Apologies:-

Councillors M Hext, Leonore Newson, Jo Hunter, Joe Matthews, Bex Northcott, Cllr Debo Sellis and Cllr Dan Thomas

* 78

Election of Chair

It was **PROPOSED** by Jeremy Roberts and **SECONDED** by Penny Hammett that Belinda Twiggs be appointed as Chair of Devon SACRE for the forthcoming year.

* 79

Election of Vice Chair

It was **PROPOSED** by Wendy Harrison and **SECONDED** by Sandra Gill that Kelly Keatley be appointed as Vice Chair of Devon SACRE for the forthcoming year.

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Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2024 were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

* **81** **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There was no item raised needing urgent attention.

* **82** **Devon SACRE Membership updates**

The Committee **NOTED** the membership of Groups A -D and the co-optees to the Committee.

* **83** **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.

Reference to a number of schools were mentioned including, primary schools at Stockland, Membury, Dolton, Uplowman, Thorverton, St Catherines, St Nicholas and Withycombe which highlighted positive comments from Ofsted inspections. These included:

- that pupils can confidently make comparison about place of worship
- 'Stop the Clock' days help to deepen pupils' understanding of cultural celebrations
- Pupils recognise the importance of celebrating others achievements
- Effective in helping pupils to learn about different beliefs and appreciate differences
- Development of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- That the school has a clear and ambitious vision and set of values

During general discussion, the Committee referred to the following:

- That assistance be offered to those schools that did not have specific favourable RE focused comments and be able to assist in a positive manner.
- That RE related topics equip pupils for life beyond school

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

* 84 **Devon and Torbay SACRE: Agreed syllabus**

Following the positive feedback from the launch events, it was **NOTED** that 296 delegates in total attended the three in person sessions and one online session.

On going training for teachers will continue to be offered during 2024/2025 via 'Inset' training, the LTLRE conference and local hub meetings.

* 85 **Learn Teach Lead RE**

The Committee **NOTED** the following :

- That a number of new Hub Leaders have joined the team and training to take place in March and July 2025
- That Devon Hubs continue to offer a mix of hybrid and face to face meetings over the year
- that the 2024 annual conference that took place on 4 October 2024 had been well received. 91 delegates attended from schools in Devon, Torbay, Plymouth and Cornwall. Feedback had included:
 - Great networking opportunity
 - Practical ideas for staff development
 - Understand how to implement a worldviews approach
 - Inspiring, uplifting, imaginative, motivating
 - Great choice of workshops for beginners and experienced teachers
 - Fantastic wide range of workshops

During general discussion members referred to:

- The value of teacher training students being able to attend the conference
- that the Higher Education establishments can offer talks and workshops on request;
- the importance of RS A level in FE colleges

* 86 **Regional and National Development Developments: RE Hubs, Curriculum, and Assessment Review**

The Committee were asked views about the following statements as part of the Governments new curriculum consultation. The Committee had been invited to meet following the formal meeting to discuss the response from Devon SACRE.

RE in the curriculum - for pupils of compulsory school age

a. The status quo should be maintained.

- b. RE should be included as part of the National Curriculum with the content being determined by central government.
- c. RE should be included as part of the National Curriculum. Content should be determined by the RE Council's National Content Standard not by central government.

The right of withdrawal from RE* – for compulsory school age.

- a. No changes should be made to the legislation concerning right of withdrawal from RE
- b. A justification should be provided (by parents) to exercise the right of withdrawal from RE
- c. The right to withdraw from RE should be removed if RE is required to be critical, objective and pluralistic
- d. The right to withdraw from RE should be removed

Accountability measures - curriculum

- a. No changes should be made to accountability measures in relation to the curriculum
- b. Changes should be made to accountability measures so that schools are held accountable for the standard of their provision for RE
- c. Changes should be made to accountability measures so that schools are held accountable for the standard of their provision for RE using the National Content Standard as a benchmark

It was generally welcomed that a response be submitted by the Committee, emphasising the importance of the REC's National Content Standard, which gives a clear description of high quality RE.

The Committee were reminded about the RE Hubs and the wealth of information available.

* **87** **NASACRE Webinars and 'In Conversation' event**

The Committee **NOTED** the NASACRE online training programme for 2024/2025.

* **88** **Young Ambassadors Project**

The Committee **NOTED** that representatives of the Young Ambassador project would be attending the next meeting of the Committee.

* **89** **Faith and Belief Schools' Visitors Training Day**

The Committee **NOTED** that the Faith and Belief Speaker training is to be held at The Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter on 18 January 2025

* **90** **Interfaith Week 2024**

The Committee **NOTED** that the following events would be taking place during Interfaith Week at The Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter:

Universal Peace Prayers– 9 November 2024

Meet a Muslim, Pagan, Buddhist, Jew, Humanist, Christian – 16 November 2024

* **91** **Holocaust Memorial day - 27 January 2025 - For a Better Future**

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'.

* **92** **Future SACRE Meetings**

The Committee NOTED the dates of future meetings:

Thursday 6 February 2025

Tuesday 17 June 2025

Thursday 13 November 2025

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 12.15 pm