

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

15 November 2018

Present: -

Group A: Christian and Other Religion and Belief Communities (except for the Church of England)

K Denby, B Becher, M Hext and B Lane

Group B: The Church of England

J Roberts (Chair), C Hulbert S Gill, R Ingrouille and T Wilson

Group C: Teachers' Associations

L Clay, R Flanagan, J Gooddy, P Hammett, W Harrison and P Randall

Group D: The County Council

Councillors P Colthorpe and M Squires

Co-opted Members

S Spence and B Twiggs,

In attendance

E Pawson (Advisor), C Bantfield (Cornwall SACRE), S Chapman (Babcock), GH Ogburn (PCC SACRE),

Apologies: -

R Halsey, H Hastie, R Nathan, M Miller, J Taylorson, M Dearden, A Parks, E Mihas, S Shute, K Walshe, G Winnall, G Teece, Councillor E Brennan, Councillor C Channon, Councillor I Chubb and Councillor G Hook

54 Election of Chair and Vice Chair**RESOLVED**

(a) that J Roberts and M Hext be elected Chair and Vice Chair respectively for the ensuing year; and

(b) that M Hext (Group A), C Hulbert (Group B), L Clay (Group C), and Councillor C Channon (Group D) be appointed as the group spokespersons.

55 Minutes**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2018 be signed as a correct record.**56 Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There was no matter raised as a matter of urgency.

57 Devon SACRE Membership

Mr Pawson welcomed Mr Philip Randall (Secondary Headteacher) (Group C), Ms Ruth Flanagan (Group C) and Mr Bill Becher (Group A) to their first meeting as new members.

Mr P Cornish, Ms K Walshe and Mr M Dearden had resigned.

58 Devon SACRE Annual Report 2017/18

The Chair reported that the performance data for 2018 had not been received by Babcock for inclusion in the draft Annual Report and therefore this matter would be considered at the next meeting.

59 Learn Teach Lead RE (LTLRE) Updates

Tatiana Wilson reported on the LTLRE conference held on 12 October 2018 at St Million, Saltash which had been well attended with 73 delegates including students and speakers. A briefing paper was circulated to the meeting outlining the programme, the theme and the key note speaker (attached).

Mr Pawson reported that financial support from the Devon SACRE for the Devon Hubs was increasing in recognition of the important work undertaken. Mr Goody concurred that the hubs were an important aspect of continuing Career Professional Development for RE teachers across both primary and secondary phases as such training would otherwise be difficult for Schools to access.

Arising on a question about provision and support for Special Schools, Mr Pawson indicated that there was no specialist provision but that lead teachers would be welcome to attend the Hubs and Mrs Spence offered to contact special teachers and inform them accordingly.

60 RE Updates: RE Newsletter: Report from Commission on RE

The Council received Mr Pawson's RE newsletter for schools in the Devon, Torbay and Exeter Diocese and a presentation on the Commission on RE and its eleven recommendations one of which was that the subject should be renamed 'Religion and Worldviews'. Another recommendation had been to rename SACREs - the Local Advisory Network for Religion and Worldviews. The meeting discussed the associated possible funding issues.

The details of the Commission's recommendations would be brought to the next meeting for further consideration (The CRE Report is attached).

Members were asked for their views on the recommendation to rename RE to 'Religion and Worldviews', and responses included:

- the proposed change and clear National Entitlement applicable for all schools would help facilitate greater accountability and help achieve consistency and assist the Ofsted inspection process;
- the proposed name reflected different life experiences and personal perspectives and was likely to be more relatable for pupils and create a more philosophical approach;
- care would be needed to avoid any confusion in terms of governmental foreign policy;
- the humanist view was generally supportive of the proposed change with the more philosophical approach; and
- the change did not mean RE was being abandoned and reflected inclusive modern RE teaching of different faiths and worldviews.

The proposed status and role of SACREs would be examined at the next meeting.

61 Interfaith Developments

Mr Pawson reported on the success of the Interfaith Conference held on 9 November 2018 on 'Dying Matters'. The Conference allowed for engagement with speakers and medical practitioners from across the spectrum of faith and beliefs and was attended by over 100 people including pupils from Clyst Cale Community College and St Peters secondary school, Exeter. The event organised by Devon SACRE and Devon Faith Belief Forum explored the

value of human life, end of life care, assisted dying and palliative care and linked in GCSE Religious studies suitable for KS4 students.

Mr Randall indicated that he would highlight such events at his DASH meetings.

The meeting also received details of the Interfaith Week 10 – 18 November 2018 and on Faith and Belief visitor training -January/March 2019.

62 **HMD 2019 Planning**

Mr Pawson reported on the arrangements and plans for HMD on Sunday, 27 January 2019 with the theme 'Torn from Home'.

The meeting acknowledged the support from Exeter City and Devon County Councils.

63 **Agreed Syllabus Review Planning**

Mr Pawson reported a meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) on 24 September 2018 and the conclusions of a RE Primary Survey. The Survey had indicated a need for well-resourced and supported curriculum material. The ASA had agreed that the current Agreed Syllabus required a radical overhaul.

There were two options identified:

Option 1

Devon SACRE to commission a consultant to write an Agreed Syllabus, using well regarded materials written by Helen Matter as central teaching resources;

Option 2

RE Today syllabus to provide a detailed, balanced curriculum with medium term planning and accompanying schemes of work.

Mrs T Wilson outlined the value of utilising the excellent curriculum resources produced by Helen Matter and advocated that SACRE should consider integrating them into a full RE syllabus.

The Council received a presentation from Lat Blaylock and Stephan Pett from RE Today on an Agreed Syllabus proposal for Devon SACRE (Option 2) in line with current proposals from the RE Commission and which allowed for flexibility according to local circumstances. The cost options were outlined in the presentation.

Mr Blaylock and Mr Pett answered Members' questions relating to the details of the proposal.

Note: following the SACRE, a meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference was held that afternoon and it accepted the RE Today proposal. As a result, Mr Pawson would now seek approval from Devon County Council for the new Agreed Syllabus, and this would then be subject to ratification by SACRE. This would be carried out by email, asking for any objections to be made known within a particular time-frame and a special meeting of SACRE would be convened to confirm the decision (in mid-December). This would enable planning, setting up the roll-out and launch events in a timely manner.

64 **Future SACRE Meetings**

Tuesday, 5 February 2019 and Friday, 14 June 2019 at 10 am at County Hall, Exeter.

The Meeting started at 10am and finished at 12.15pm