



Torbay SACRE Minutes

11th February 2020

Agenda Item	Comments
<p>1</p>	<p><u>Welcome and apologies for absence</u> Ed welcomed everyone to the meeting and roundtable introductions followed.</p> <p>Everyone welcomed 3 new members Belinda, Katy and Vikkie.</p> <p>Apologies were received from, Rev Angela Summer, Penny Rouvas, Cllrs Darling, Law and Brown, Mrs Claire Bird, Carly Watson, Mr Jeremy Roberts</p> <p><u>Attendees:</u></p> <p>Advisor: Mr. Ed Pawson</p> <p>Group A - Mr Bill Becher (Quaker) Mrs Shelley Moss (URC) Mr Yousif Al-Nassar (Muslim)</p> <p>Group B - Mr Phillip Mantell Katy Burns Mrs Charlotte Caluori</p> <p>Group C - Mrs Corrine Guntrip (NATRE/LTRE) Vikkie McClymont (NEU) Belinda Twiggs (NASUWT) Nikki Boone (NATFHE)</p> <p>Torbay Councillors Cllr Hazel Foster Co-opted members Maia Miller</p> <p>Local Authority Debbie Horn (Officer) Sue Kemp (Clerk to SACRE)</p>
	<p>Ed said that the meeting was quorate and explained that decisions cannot be agreed officially without representation from each group.</p> <p>Ed reminded everyone of the Code of Conduct and that representatives should be respectful of each others viewpoints.</p>



<p>2</p>	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting on 18th October 2019 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters arising:- Mrs Carly Watson was present at the last meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed and seconded that the minutes were signed off.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p><u>Items requiring urgent attention</u></p> <p>Nothing was brought to the Chair's attention</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Election of the Chair</u></p> <p>Ed asked for volunteers to be Chair of Torbay SACRE as Corrine would be stepping down in her role. He said that Jeremy Roberts would step in to be Chair for a period of time but asked for a volunteer for today's meeting.</p> <p>Mr Phillip Mantell agreed to be Chair for today's meeting.</p> <p>Phillip thanked Corrine for chairing SACRE and for her professional development in progressing NATRE. Corrine said that it was a heavy heart that she has made this decision and that she would be concentrating more on supporting teachers. She thanked everyone for making her feel so welcome.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Torbay SACRE Membership Updates</u></p> <p>Ed said that a lot of vacancies have been filled, however, representation for Group A Roman Catholic has not been successfully filled.</p> <p>Debbie said she would follow this up with the Catholic Diocese.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Agreed Syllabus Training Updates</u></p> <p>Ed said that two additional training courses are planned to further develop the new syllabus and that 60 people attended the Understanding Christianity course last term; 30 teachers had attended new syllabus training last term..</p> <p>Ed said that he has completed a survey for Devon and Torbay teachers about the new syllabus. He said that the responses were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In our school we have started using the new syllabus – 45/48 are using the new syllabus; 3 disagree • The new syllabus supports better learning in RE – 44/48 agreed – 3 disagreed;1 skipped • Our school now teaches better RE – 41/47 agree; 6 disagree; 1 skipped • Pupils engage well with RE – 45/47 agreed; 2 disagreed; 1 skipped • Staff are knowledgeable about RE topics – 46/48 agreed; 2 disagreed



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff are confident to teach RE – 45/48; 2 disagreed <p>The meeting discussed the possible reasons as to why teachers might feel less confident about teaching RE and recognised that time restraints in preparing materials for a RE lesson could be an issue. This would make teachers reluctant to answer questions confidently.</p> <p>Yousif said that a lot of schools are asking for visits to their school to talk about Islam teachings. He said he has found the students very enthusiastic about their learning of the subject.</p> <p>Ed said that in a few schools across the region there has been some parental objection to RE teaching and parents requesting their child are withdrawn from that lesson.</p> <p>Corinne said that DfE is very specific about its guidance around parents withdrawing their children from a RE lesson and that schools should not offer an alternative course i.e. maths or science. It is up to the parent to provide the alternative religious education without impacting on the child's attendance.</p> <p>It was noted that parents have a choice to opt out of sex education for primary aged children.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Raising the profile of RE, Collective Worship and SACRE in Torbay</u></p> <p>Ed said that Keith Denby has been invited to talk to the meeting to forward a case for Torbay SACRE having a Humanist representative. He said that Keith is the Humanist representative on Devon SACRE.</p> <p>Keith introduced himself and thanked everyone for inviting him to come and share his knowledge about what humanism is about and how it sits in the modern world. He said humanists believe in making their ethical decisions on reason, empathy and a concern for people. Keith said that Humanist UK is committed to education.</p> <p>Some members recognised that they did not know a lot about the subject and thanked Keith for sharing his beliefs.</p> <p>Members considered the representation of non-religious views on any SACRE and agreed that it was vital to ensure children have an understanding of the many different beliefs they would see in their lives. A section on Humanism is included in the new RE Syllabus which Torbay SACRE had previously agreed to.</p> <p>Some members reflected on historic past experiences of humanism interaction in SACREs which was detrimental in forging good relationships with some faiths.</p> <p>Ed thanked Keith for his introductions.</p>



	<p>Keith left the meeting.</p> <p>Members were asked to share their views on whether to allow a humanism representation on Torbay SACRE. Everyone was respectful of each others views and concerns.</p> <p>Members were asked to vote in their houses about agreeing to include a humanist as a co-opted member of Torbay SACRE:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group A – Yes to co-opted member• Group B – Yes for a probationary period• Group C – Yes – co-opted member• Group D – Yes <p>The meeting agreed to a humanist representative being a co-opted member of Torbay SACRE.</p> <p>Actions: Ed to clarify with Keith who would be the humanist representative for Torbay SACRE Code of Conduct to be reviewed at next meeting</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>SACRE Annual report, exam feedback and schools monitoring</u></p> <p>Ed circulated the draft SACRE Annual report. He said the report has been delayed until now because examination results have only recently been made available. Corrine is going to write the forward as Chair.</p> <p>Ed drew attention to Table A and B about Religious Studies (RS) GCSE entries in Torbay and nationally.</p> <p>It was noted that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Torbay schools have been entering more students for GCSE RS over the last three years however this has dropped significantly this year.• Drop in RS GCSE entries suggest that an increasing number of schools are not providing all students with their entitlement to study RE in years 10 and 11. Torbay SACRE continues to engage with secondary schools to remind them that RE is a statutory subject at KS4.• Individual schools should not be named in Table B – members agreed that this table should be included in the annual report <p>Actions Sue to circulate NATRE Survey 2019 with minutes Ed to send Sue draft SACRE Annual Report for circulation to the group</p> <p><u>Monitoring</u> Ed reported that he has been checking recent Ofsted reports for reference to religious studies:-</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hayes Primary – good outcome – Ofsted inspector found that pupils have developed a good cultural understanding of the subject and can reflect on different views. • Kings Ash – requires improvement – no mention about RS
9.	<p><u>Reviewing guidance on Collective Worship</u> Ed said that he is currently reviewing the guidance on Collective Worship for Devon, Torbay and Plymouth SACREs. There is a meeting on 4th March at St Johns Primary School Totnes to discuss this.</p> <p>Action Shelley is interested in attending and will check with her school's SLT if she has permission to attend this meeting.</p>
10.	<p><u>Learn, Teach Lead RE Updates</u> Corinne reported a successful talk at the South Devon hub about the 3Is. She said she had a good mix of attendees, however, noted that there were no secondary school representation. She said that more people are engaging with hubs.</p>
11.	<p><u>National Developments: Ofsted and REQM</u> For next agenda</p>
12.	<p><u>Interfaith Week and Holocaust Memorial Day Feedback</u> Ed highlighted the programme for the Holocaust Memorial Day at Exeter which includes the opening ceremony by the Lord Mayor of Exeter and young people. He said he is keen to do this in Torbay and talked about the merits of a community civic event which includes engaging schools, young children, Torquay Mayor and churches.</p> <p>Action: For further discussion at next meeting.</p>
13.	<p><u>Future SACRE Meetings</u></p> <p>Members agreed the future SACRE Meetings:- Wednesday 17th June 2020 09.30 – 12.00 Tuesday 20th October 2020 09.00 – 11.30</p>

Action List

Agenda item	Action
5. Torbay SACRE Membership updates	Debbie Horn to source Catholic Diocese representative
7. Raising the profile of RE, Collective	Ed to clarify with Keith who would be the interim humanist representative for Torbay SACRE Ed to agenda Code of Conduct to be reviewed at next meeting



Worship and SACRE in Torbay	
8. SACRE Annual Report	Sue to circulate NATRE Survey 2019 with minutes Ed to send Sue draft SACRE Annual Report for circulation to the group
9. Reviewing guidance on Collective Worship	Shelley to seek approval to attend the Collective Worship meeting in March.
11. National Developments: Ofsted and REQM	Agenda item for next meeting
12. Interfaith Week and Holocaust Memorial Day Feedback	Torbay SACRE to discussion possibilities of hosting a Community Civic event

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